

**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**Tomorrow**

Watch this space  
The Times Profile of  
General Abrahams, 'Star Wars' chief

Holy writ  
James Fenton reviews  
Anthony Burgess's novel  
of early Christianity

Chain, set and match  
Can Britain out pedal  
Europe in the  
Tour of Italy?

Allies to enemies  
Ronald Butti on the end  
of the wartime coalition

**Portfolio**

There is £4,000 to be won in  
The Times Portfolio  
competition today - double the  
usual amount because no-one  
won yesterday. Portfolio list,  
page 24; how to play, Infor-  
mation Service, back page.  
The weekly prize on Saturday  
will be £40,000. The usual  
£20,000 is doubled because  
there was no winner last week.

## Jobless 'to lose £5 aid a week'

Jobless people aged up to 26  
will be forced on to a new lower  
rate of supplementary benefit,  
losing at least £5 a week, as part  
of the Government's social  
security review, Mr Gordon  
Brown, Labour MP for Don-  
caster East, claimed yesterday.  
Page 2

## Craxi boosted in Italian poll

The failure of the Communist  
challenge in Italy's local elec-  
tions brought relief to the five  
parties in the Craxi coalition.  
Between them, the five  
achieved 58.2 per cent of the  
vote.  
Page 5

## Jobs blackspot

The West Midlands, has the  
nation's highest long-term job-  
less rate, with nearly half the  
region's unemployed without  
work for 12 months.  
Page 2

## Cat's-eye death

A man was killed yesterday  
when he was struck by the  
mounting for a Cat's-eye, which  
smashed through the wind-  
screen of a car on the M1 in  
Bedfordshire.

## Pole ousted

A hardline Marxist and former  
security chief was dropped from  
Poland's ruling Politburo in  
what is seen as the final  
reckoning for the murder of a  
pro-Solidarity priest.  
Page 7

## Asda go-ahead

The proposed £600 million  
merger between Associated  
Dairies Group (Asda) and MFI  
Furniture Group will not be  
referred to the Monopolies and  
Mergers Commission.

## New foetus test

A three-year study is to be  
launched into the safety of a  
new technique which should  
greatly improve the detection of  
foetal abnormalities.  
Page 3

## ENIGMA

This week there is another  
chance to crack the Enigma  
code. The first prize: two return  
tickets to Bangkok, plus £1,000.  
Today's clue is in the back page  
Information Service.

Leader page 15  
Letters: On Bradford fire, from  
Mr R. T. D. Wilmut, and Mr J.  
Fairley; Tory failings, from Mr  
R. Saunders, and Mr H. M.  
McDonald.

Leading articles: Mr Pym's  
group; Industry and new tech-  
nology; Austria.

Features, pages 12-14  
Dons getting it wrong: the Lords  
show their teeth; Miles King-  
don's feudal fogs; Spectrum:  
Will Africa always go hungry?  
Wednesday Page: BT's smart  
SC.

Special Report, pages 18-20.  
Austria.

Obituary, page 16  
Mr Terkel Terkelson, Lady  
Katharine Seymour.

Classified, pages 28-33.  
Secretarial, Property.

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Pym's 'loyal' Tories attack Thatcher's economic failings

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government was yesterday accused by Mr Francis Pym of giving round after round of ammunition to its political opponents. He said it was in danger of being sunk by its own shells.

In his first speech since his unveiling as the leader of the new grouping of Conservative MPs, Conservative Centre-Forward, Mr Pym urged the Government to modify its policies and attitudes in response to mounting evidence that its policies were not working.

Mr Pym, who was speaking in Oxford to the University Law Society, condemned the Government for neither achieving its economic objectives nor fully examining alternatives.

Unemployment has increased every year we have been in office, it is still increasing, and is now nearly three times higher than when we came to power," he said.

Growth in the economy could not credibly be portrayed as a significant major and sustained recovery. "It is hard to argue that we have done much more than get back to where we started, and that was hardly satisfactory," the manufacturing decline was deeply worrying.

Mr Pym's speech was seen and approved by prominent members of the pressure group, which was launched on Sunday with about 30 members.

His words were therefore studied with interest last night, both by the Ministers he hopes to persuade and by potential sympathizers, as the group's first collective utterance.

In seeking recruits over past months Mr Pym has assured his friends that there would be no



Looks like Mr Pym is trying to kick the ball into his own goal...

disloyalty to the leadership, and his speech began with assertions of loyalty not explicitly to the present government but to the Conservative Party and to the traditional values of Conservatism.

He then marked out the "large areas of common ground" between his group and his former colleagues in the Government. They agreed that the principal immediate enemy was inflation. They would continue to support privatization and reform of trade union law. But his discussion of the Government's economic failings could hardly have been blunter.

"I admire sixty of purpose. But there comes a point when intellectual certainty becomes damaging if it flies in the face of the evidence," he said.

To avoid the charge of being too personal, Mr Pym said: "The party rightly admires Margaret Thatcher for her courage and her determination."

Among those who were said to have refused were Mr Mark Carls, Warrington South; Lord Cranborne, Dorset South; Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Birmingham Selly Oak; Mr Tony Baldry, Banbury; and Sir Anthony Clwyd, North West.

One of the group's leaders said last night that before the launch they had 32 definite messages of support; one had since had second thoughts, and others had joined yesterday. Another leading member said they had received 20 further applications.

But the failure to publish a list is bound to limit the credibility of a group.

Test of speech, page 4  
Leading article, letters, page 15

## NUM executive vote to dismiss moderate

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The National Union of Mineworkers was plunged into a new political crisis yesterday when its leaders voted to dismiss Mr Roy Lynk, moderate leader of the "disident" Nottinghamshire miners.

The 10-9 vote to oust the acting secretary of Britain's second biggest coalfield was taken as pitmen in Nottinghamshire balloted "overwhelmingly" to secede from the union rather than accept the increased authority of Mr Arthur Scargill, the union's president, and his national executive.

Mr Lynk said last night that he would fight his dismissal, insisting: "Whatever happens to me, somebody else will sit in my place. You cannot by a series of eliminations get rid of 30,000 Nottingham miners. That's not on. Scargill can't do it. He has a tiger by the tail and he doesn't know how to let go of it."

Mr Scargill was not present at yesterday's meeting of national leaders, which was chaired by Mr Michael McGahey, the vice-president.

The executive decision takes the form of a recommendation to the national conference in six weeks' time. Only a simple majority of the 120 delegates is required to confirm it, and the militants are confident of getting the recommendation through.

If that happens Mr Lynk, aged 47, will be suspended and given three months' notice to

## Philips end UK washing machine production

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Europe's troubled domestic appliance industry received another blow yesterday with an announcement by the Dutch-based Philips company that it was closing its only factory in Britain at the cost of 550 jobs.

The plant, which also makes tumble dryers, is located near Halifax and is to close during the next 12 months. Philips said it recognized the impact the closure would have on the town and pledged to identify other job opportunities in the area.

The loss-making plant has been under scrutiny by Philips for at least two years and is being closed because it is too small. In future, Philips appliances sold in Britain will be imported from existing larger factories in France, West Germany and Italy.

A company statement said: "It is well known that there is considerable over-capacity in the major domestic appliance industry in Europe, including Britain. This has resulted in an extremely competitive situation and it is clear that production must be achieved in large manufacturing units where the required economies of scale can be gained."

Philips declined to reveal the scale of the losses at the Halifax operation, which was established in 1971 and is Philips' only white goods unit in Britain.

Philips and its rival Siemens-Bosch of West Germany, each hold about 12 per cent of the total European domestic appliance market. Philips ranks at least sixth in the automatic washing machine market behind Hotpoint, Hoover, Zanussi, Servis and Creda, which between them hold about 78 per cent of sales.

Considerable over-capacity is the cause of much of the European industry's problems.

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## Pope castigates loose sexual morals

By Our Foreign Staff

On the last day of his dramatic visit to the Netherlands, the Pope yesterday reserved for his meeting with young Dutch Catholics his most devastating strictures on lax sexual morals and on the vices of the consumer society.

He delivered two stern lectures on sexual morals, declaring that Church opposition to promiscuity, homosexuality, birth control and abortion will remain "the standard... for all time."

The Pontiff's speeches, coupled with an address on Monday reiterating that he will not let women become priests, represented a ringing papal rejection of demands made by the Dutch Church's large liberal

wing for a relaxation of Catholic doctrine.

Speaking at an open-air Mass in the city of Naastrich, the Pope defended the Vatican's 1968 ban on artificial birth control and refusal to sanction divorce.

He then travelled by train to Amsterdam to participate in a scripted question-and-answer session with young Catholics.

Addressing these young people at the Convent of Our Lady of Ter Eem, he was totally inflexible in his view that "indulgence does not make people happy. The consumer society does not make them happy either."

The early Christians who had been taught by Jesus to know Jesus personally, he stated, were "certainly not permissive. I need do no more than refer to the numerous comments in the letters of St Paul on the subject. The words of the apostles are clear and strict. They are words inspired by God. They remain the standard for the Church for all time."

One of the Pope's challenges suggested that young Dutch Catholics believed that "a massive gap existed between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the pressure imposed on the young by the Church's strictness" particularly on sexuality.

The Pope replied by offering a stern portrait of Jesus. "Dear friends, let me speak frankly. I know that all of you are of good faith. But are you sure your



Mr Justice Poppelwell (right) arriving at the burnt-out stand with Mr Stafford Heginbotham, chairman of the club (Photograph: Suresh Karadia.)

## Judge horrified over fire as letter wrangle grows

From Peter Davenport, Bradford

The judge heading the public inquiry into the Bradford City fire visited the football ground yesterday amid mounting controversy over the club's apparent failure to counter fire hazards, despite warnings.

Mr Justice Poppelwell said that the series of letters warning the club about safety hazards and fire risks would form a part of his investigation.

He flew to the city for a personal inspection of the gutted main stand at the Valley Parade ground. He was guided by senior police officers who are investigating the cause of the blaze, which led to 52 deaths. Officials of the club briefed him of the tragic events of Saturday.

Throughout the days since the fire floral tributes have been arriving at the ground, many from the grieving relatives of the dead. The police have arranged them against a smoke-blackened wall at the rear of the main stand. Poppelwell stopped briefly at two poignant tributes, posies of flowers in soft

drink bottles balanced on one of the turnstiles and with a note celloped to the side, saying: "To Richard and Robert Ormandroyd and their dad."

After his inspection, during which he spent several moments in the turnstile area where many of the victims died behind locked gates, the judge was asked for his immediate impressions: "It is horrifying," he replied.

He emphasized that the official start of the inquiry had not yet been decided but that it would be public and held in Bradford. His visit yesterday was to familiarize himself with a scene that he had viewed only on television.

Today he is to visit Birmingham for the second part of his inquiry into the outbreak of hoodlomanism which resulted in the death of one supporter.

The judge, who was briefed over lunch by senior officers on their investigations, arrived as the dispute over the warnings to the football club took a new twist. It emerged that,

despite denials, at least one of the warnings had been received by the club secretary, Mr Terry Newman.

A central question for the inquiry to answer will be why no action was taken to counter fire and safety hazards at the ground 10 months after they were recognized by the fire, police and local authorities responsible.

Mr Stafford Heginbotham, the club chairman, has repeatedly denied that he or the club officials ever received two letters from the engineers department of West Yorkshire County Council drawing attention to safety hazards posed by the roof of the 11-year-old wooden stand and the fire risks inherent on a build-up of combustible materials in the voids beneath the seating. However, a full history of the correspondence emerged yesterday.

On October 17, 1983, the Football Grounds Improvement Trust, based in Blackpool, said it received a letter from Mr Newman, inquiring about the possibility of a grant to carry out repairs to the main stand roof. They were told that to qualify for a grant on safety work they would have to produce written instructions from the police, fire brigade or local authority involved.

On July 31, 1984 Mr Newman again wrote to the trust enclosing one of the two letters sent to Bradford City by

Continued on page 2, col 2

## Death toll thought to include 10 children

From Rupert Morris, Bradford

Ten Bradford schoolchildren are believed to have been among the 50 who died in Saturday's fire at the City Ground. Two men in their 70s died later in hospital.

Among the many family tragedies to emerge yesterday as forensic scientists and pathologists continued their grim investigations were the deaths of twins, Richard and Robert Ormandroyd, aged 12, and their father, Mr Gerry Ormandroyd, aged 40.

Another devastated family was that of Ashley Stockman, aged 16 and her 14-year-old brother, Craig Stockman, who were killed with their father, Mr Trevor Stockman.

Mrs Sheila Stockman, the children's stepmother, is a local police woman. The children lived with their mother, Patricia Holroyde, in Bradford.

Mr Peter Greenwood, aged 48, deputy headmaster at Thorn Park School for the deaf died

with his two sons, Felix Greenwood, aged 13, and Rupert Greenwood, aged 11.

Mr Norman Middleton, aged 84, and his grandson Adrian Wright, aged 11, are also believed to be among the dead.

By yesterday evening, 22 bodies had been positively identified: 16 men, three boys and three women.

Among the dead were believed to be a man and his son whose wife is pregnant.

Police woman Janice McClean, one of the team of 12 assigned to deal with bereaved relatives, said yesterday: "I'm 21. I've never come across anything like this in my life, and I never want to again. I've had to comfort relatives of the victims who are much older than I am. You just have to do the best you can."

The total death toll was reduced by one yesterday to 52 as pathologists confirmed that what had previously been identified as a body, was a piece of plastic.

A father and son were still on the critical list at Pinderfields Hospital, Wakefield, yesterday. They are Mr Herbert Bamford, aged 72, and Mr Miles Bamford, aged 25. Mr William Hudson, aged 72, and Mr Eric Hudson, aged 72, are also in a critical condition. Two others are "very ill," and three more "satisfactory and improving."

Safety plan, page 2

## Rampage by Tamil rebels kills 86

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

Seventy-eight people were killed yesterday when Tamil separatists disguised as soldiers drove through the ancient Sinhalese capital of Anuradhapura, firing indiscriminately.

The 40 rebels, travelling in two buses, also killed eight game guards in a shoot-out as they escaped from the Anuradhapura district, which is in north-central Sri Lanka.

More than a hundred people were injured in the attack in the city. Among the dead were 39 women, including five Buddhist nuns, and six children.

The casualties were the worst since the rebels began fighting for a separate Tamil state in the north and east, nine years ago.

The Government appealed for calm.

President Jayewardene conferred with members of the Security Council and a Curfew was imposed from 2pm yesterday till 6am today, in Anuradhapura district. Tamils constitute 1.9 per cent of the population in the district and the curfew was to prevent reprisals against them.

The news and a number of Buddhist pilgrims were killed when the rebels fired at the shrine around the Bo tree brought to Sri Lanka 2,500 years ago from India and which is reputed to be the oldest tree in the world. No damage was caused to the tree, according to Government sources. It is believed to have grown out of a branch from the tree under which the Buddha attained enlightenment.

The Government announced that a combined operation was being carried out to capture the rebels, dead or alive.

Doctors, nurses, and drugs were flown to Anuradhapura.

From Anuradhapura the rebels drove to Puttalam, a western coastal town 85 miles north of Colombo. En route they attacked a police station at Neechchigama, injuring a policeman and from there they proceeded to the wild life sanctuary where the shoot-out with the game guards occurred.

Yesterday's attack was a grim fulfilment of a warning by President Jayewardene when he opened parliament in February that the rebels would attempt to shoot their way into the heart of Sri Lanka, to the borders of what they called the state of Eelam.

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# West Midlands suffers highest rate of long-term unemployment

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The West Midlands until a few years ago the heartland of the nation's manufacturing industry, now has the highest long-term unemployment rate in Britain, it was disclosed yesterday.

Nearly half, 46.1 per cent, of the region's 357,100 registered unemployed, totalling 164,500 people, have been without work for more than a year.

The figures, revealed to the Commons employment select committee by the Manpower Services Commission, confirm the once enterprising region as a worse jobless blackspot than the traditional high unemployment areas of Scotland, the North and Merseyside. They also present a warning to the Government.

Mr Peter Snape, Labour MP for West Bromwich East and chairman of his parliamentary party's West Midlands group, said yesterday: "We are the lowest paid region; we used to be the highest. Now we have the highest long-term unemployment rate; we used to have the lowest."

"If anyone had said seven years ago we would top these

He blamed the increase in unemployment on the "inert" of manufacturing imports entering Britain and on past regional policies which, he said, discriminated against the West Midlands.

"The present policy of the Government seems to be 'If you can import it, why make it?' The only hope for the future is some degree of import control if we are to have any manufacturing industry at all," he added.

But Mr Hal Miller, Conservative MP for Bromsgrove and chairman of the Tories West Midlands group said there was a higher level of commercial activity in the area, although it was yet to be reflected in a lower level of unemployment.

The region was suffering from having relied on a narrow group of manufacturing industries, largely in decline.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BY REGION, JANUARY 1985

|                | No. of unemployed | Unemployment rate | No. unemployed over one year | % of all unemployed |
|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| South-east     | 796.1             | 10.1              | 274.1                        | 34.4                |
| London         | 400.1             | 10.4              | 149.1                        | 37.3                |
| East Anglia    | 65.2              | 10.9              | 27.7                         | 42.5                |
| South-west     | 213.2             | 12.5              | 67.9                         | 31.8                |
| West Midlands  | 357.1             | 15.8              | 164.5                        | 46.1                |
| East Midlands  | 207.1             | 13.0              | 76.8                         | 37.1                |
| York & Humbers | 205.5             | 15.2              | 79.6                         | 38.9                |
| North-west     | 461.5             | 16.6              | 200.1                        | 43.4                |
| North          | 242.5             | 18.2              | 105.8                        | 43.6                |
| Wales          | 165.9             | 17.4              | 74.8                         | 45.2                |
| Scotland       | 310.2             | 13.8              | 138.5                        | 44.7                |
| Great Britain  | 3217.9            | 13.6              | 1255.0                       | 39.0                |

Source: Department of Employment.

## Sun contempt claim

A High Court judge will be asked tomorrow to jail or fine the editor of the Sun and the managing director of its publishers, News Group Newspapers, for alleged contempt of court.

Mirror Group Newspapers yesterday issued committal proceedings for alleged breach of an injunction against the Sun editor, Mr Kevin McKelvie, and Mr Bruce Matthews.

The injunction, granted by Mr Justice Hirst last Thursday,

banned the Sun from using extracts from Peter Bogdanovich's book *The Killing of the Unicorn* about the "Playboy playmate" Dorothy Stratten who was murdered by her husband, Paul Snyder.

The Sun did not challenge the injunction but carried its own Dorothy Stratten story on Saturday, the day the *Mirror*'s serialization began. The *Mirror* Group's lawyers allege that that amounted to a breach of the order.

## The Bradford City fire

## Kinnock safety and insurance cost plea

By our Political Reporter

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, yesterday urged the Government to devote part of the revenue it receives from football towards paying for the extensive programme of safety improvements it requires at sports grounds after the Bradford City disaster.

In the Commons, Mr Kinnock also asked the Government to step in to help if the Bradford club is found to have insufficient insurance cover to meet all legitimate claims from the bereaved and badly injured.

The Prime Minister, who today meets Lord Havers,

chairman of the Football Trust, to discuss arrangements for helping clubs to improve their grounds, was noncommittal in reply to both points.

She asked for time to see how much was covered by insurance

and the various disaster funds which had been started.

Referring to safety improvements, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that the situation was complicated. She pointed out that the Football Grounds Improvement Trust had built up £3.3 million in its bank account which had not been taken up by the clubs, and had been distributed to clubs which had already received grants.

She said: "I think it would be best if we made a thorough inquiry before jumping to any conclusions."

Flowers continued to pour into the football club yesterday. Police officers and well-wishers placed them at the back of the fire-stricken main stand, giving the only touch of colour and life to the blackened remains.

## Merseyside fund for fire victims

Everton and Liverpool football clubs gave a total of £20,000 yesterday to start a Merseyside fund to help the Bradford fire disaster victims.

The Police Federation gave more than £5,000. Officers stood in silence at their annual conference in Blackpool to mourn the dead.

Thousands of pounds have poured into the disaster fund launched by Mrs Olive Messer, the city's mayor. Officers of help have come from all over Britain, and as far afield as Germany and Australia.

The Merseyside fund was launched yesterday in a joint move by the two clubs, which have given £10,000 each.

● Notts County yesterday launched an appeal in aid of the dependents of the Bradford City fire victims. In Lincoln it was announced that the city council will be giving £5,000 towards the Bradford appeal.

● Mr David Sharpe, a plastic surgeon at St Luke's hospital, Bradford, said yesterday that he was using pioneering treatment, with surgical staples to clip skin together before grafting, to heal the Bradford fire survivors' burns.

● Proceeds from Saturday's FA Cup Final for 2,000 spectators in Southampton will go to the mayor of Southampton's appeal for the Bradford fire disaster fund.



Thumbs up: Clifford Webb at the controls.

## Challenger sets a test of its own

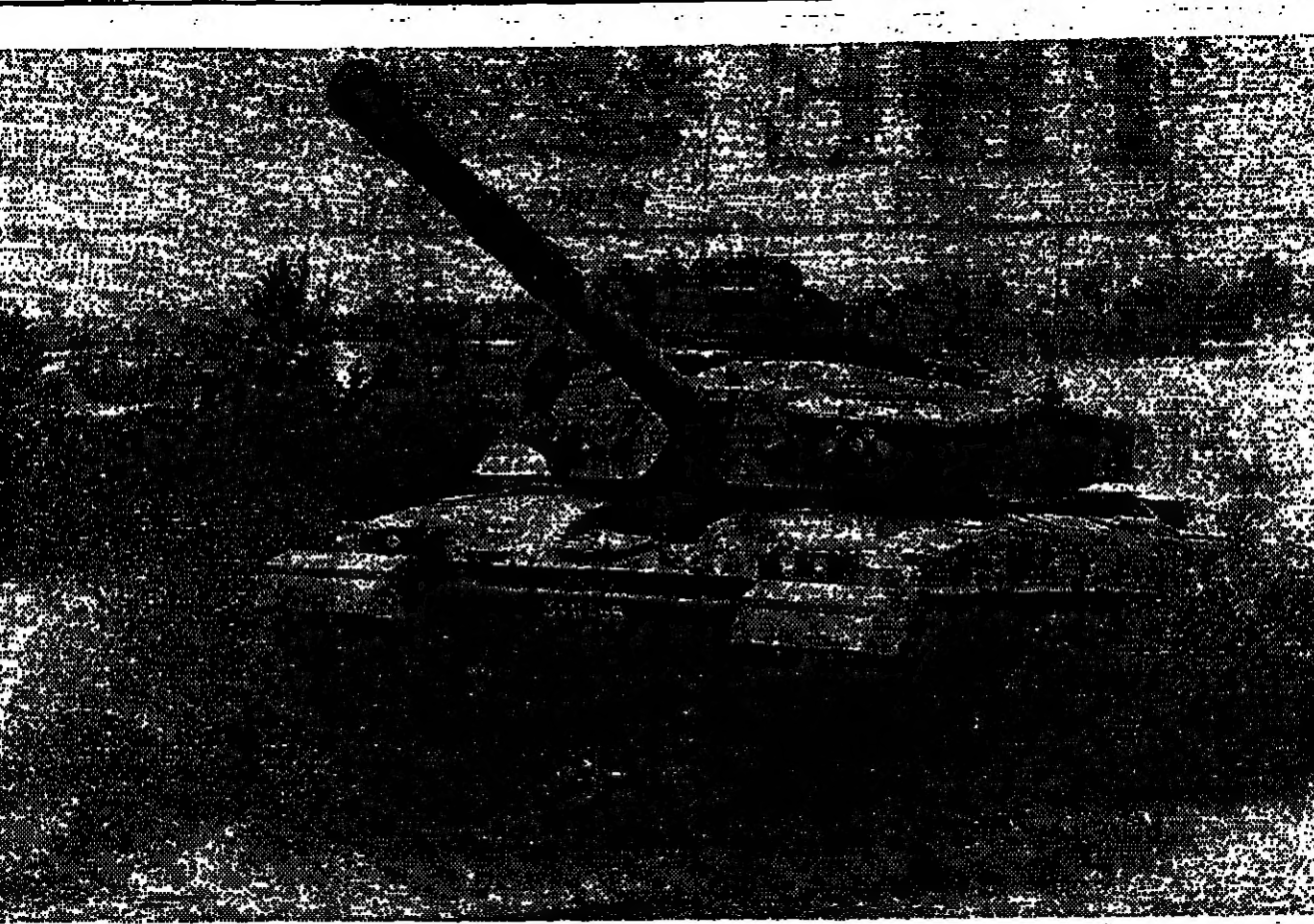
By Clifford Webb  
Motoring Correspondent

"The Army is offering the new Challenger battle tank. It will make a change from road testing a car," the news editor said. He was, as usual, understating the difficulties involved.

To begin with, although Challenger weighs 62 tons and is powered by a 1,200hp Rolls-Royce diesel engine, the tiny driver's compartment is infinitely more congested than my original Mini. And there is no door.

It seems a bit mean when you have forked out £1.5 million to have to squeeze in through a small manhole, taking care not to damage the controls as you scramble for a foothold.

"OK, let off the parking brake and give it plenty of accelerator," the disembodied voice of the tank commander said through the helmet radio.



Great guns: The Challenger being put through its paces at Bovington, Dorset (Photograph: Warren Harrison).

"Don't worry, just follow my instructions."

It was all right for him perched up top in the turret, but I was isolated at the sharp end and vulnerable.

On a race track or hurtling around a mountain pass I am solely to blame if I make a mistake in a car. Obeying someone else's instructions when hurtling semi-blind across the Royal Tank Reg-

ment's mock battle ground at Bovington, Dorset, is quite another matter.

Thankfully, Challenger, which came into service only last year and is progressively replacing the 20-year-old Chieftain, is reasonably easy to drive. It has an automatic gear box, and that means only two pedals.

Th two levers are still there in place of a steering wheel but

now they are inter-linked. By the second time through the water splash I was being urged on by the tank commander, "You're going great guns, sir. Just keep your foot down and we'll have a lot of fun."

Fant We were approaching what appeared to be a huge crater at rockless speed. When we hit the bottom I should lose my new dentil fillings.

For the record, Challenger's top speed is about 37mph on a dry, flat road. It carries 395 gallons of diesel fuel.

It carries the same 120mm gun as Chieftain, but its new British-developed "Chobham" armour offers much greater protection.

● A tank crew had a lucky escape near Brighton yesterday when fire swept through their 52-ton Chieftain tank.

## £50m aid announced for Scots ratepayers

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Government announced yesterday aid of £50 million, £10 million more than expected, to ease the burden on Scottish business and domestic ratepayers of the often huge bills they have received this year as a result of revaluation.

Under a Bill to be introduced into Parliament shortly the increases ratepayers pay this year will be limited to a maximum of three times their 1984-85 bill.

They will have a statutory right to claim 100 per cent relief for any sum above that.

A limit of £10,000 is expected to be placed on any single relief payment to ensure that most help goes to the smaller businesses, and that the big businesses such as supermarkets, do not get all the benefit.

About £40 million of the relief announced yesterday by

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, will go to businesses and £10 million to domestic ratepayers, on top of the £37 million they have already been promised.

Mr Younger declined in the Commons to make any commitment for further relief in 1986-87, although Mr Donald Dewar, opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, said that failure to extend the bill in future would confirm the feeling that the package was "a squallid manoeuvre" designed to contain the explosion of rage at the Scottish Tory conference last week.

Mr Dewar welcomed the aid and said: "It is remarkable how far concentrates the mind." Having said "not a penny more", Mr Younger was scrambling for safety.

## Walkout for Princess at conference

A handful of delegates and observers walked out of the annual conference yesterday when Princess Anne arrived to speak to members.

A few in the audience ostentatiously remained seated as the princess entered the conference hall at Bourne-mouth, while about nine, including a punk-rocker with blond spiked hair and leather-studded belt, walked out.

But the princess received warm applause from the remaining 700 people, who cheered and listened with respect as she spoke about the work of the Save the Children Fund, of which she is president.

Later, the union's general secretary, Mr Tony Christopher, described the walkout as "just childish, schoolboy nonsense."

He said he had not noticed the walkout and was sure the princess had not either. Most of those who left the hall are thought to have been observers rather than delegates at the conference, and they declined to talk to the press.

A union spokesman said: "I gather they don't think royalty has a place in a trade union conference."

She was there to launch an appeal by the union for £250,000 to support work on tuberculosis among Tibetan refugees in India. After warm applause, the princess spoke for about 14 minutes on the work of the fund and thanked the union for a past appeal it had made.

## £60 youth jobs plan upsets Government

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

An innovation scheme to give 12-month training to new entrants into the Civil Service, which is likely to embarrass the Government in its attempts to reduce young people's earnings, is about to be agreed for staff in the Manpower Services Commission.

Under the proposals, entrants aged 16 joining as clerical assistants would get a starting wage of about £60 a week; young people on the national Youth Training Scheme (YTS), which is administered by the commission, are paid £26.25.

Union leaders and senior Whitehall officials agree that the scheme could be a pace setter for the rest of the Civil Service. Although clerical entrants at present receive training, it is not formalized in the way suggested by the new system.

Under the proposals put forward by Mr Geoffrey Holland, the commission's director, young people joining the Civil Service, such as typists, would get 33 weeks on-the-job training, 13 weeks of further education and a two-week residential course. The suggestions have been accepted by senior management at the commission and await union approval.

Civil Service unions have blocked the introduction of the YTS in government offices because they regard it as the use of "slave labour". Mr Holland's initiative is seen as a way round their opposition, but its acceptance could have wide ramifications.

A Whitehall official said last night that the scheme would be regarded as a "pace setter" for the rest of the Civil Service.

Mr Martin Thomas, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that Russell Shankland and Reginald Dean Hancock, both aged 21, were guilty of murdering Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, when, escorted by a police convoy, he took Mr David

Williams to work at the Merthyr Vale colliery last November. The two men, both of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, have pleaded not guilty. Mr Hancock has admitted manslaughter but the prosecution has refused to accept the plea.

Mr Thomas said: "These two men, Hancock and Shankland, had deliberately and with the full appreciation of the consequences aimed and propelled the concrete block and the post at the taxi carrying David Wilkie and David Williams."

It was done, Mr Thomas said, "not to cause an obstruction in the road, haphazardly or indiscriminately at the police convoy by way of some form of protest, but determinedly at that taxi and its occupants."

A third miner, Anthony Williams, aged 26, also of Rhymney, has been found not guilty of murder. He faces two charges of conspiring to damage the taxi with intent to endanger the lives of the occupants.

The trial continues today.

## Taxi driver 'deliberately killed'

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Two pitmen who ambushed a taxi taking a working miner to his colliery during the coal strike acted "calmly, calculatedly and skillfully" when they killed the taxi driver with a concrete block, Cardiff Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Martin Thomas, QC, for the prosecution, told the jury that Russell Shankland and Reginald Dean Hancock, both aged 21, were guilty of murdering Mr David Wilkie, aged 35, when, escorted by a police convoy, he took Mr David

Williams to work at the Merthyr Vale colliery last November. The two men, both of Rhymney, Mid Glamorgan, have pleaded not guilty. Mr Hancock has admitted manslaughter but the prosecution has refused to accept the plea.

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## Legionnaires fear continues

Health officials are alarmed at the many people still refusing to keep out-patients appointments at Stafford District General Hospital, even though it has been declared safe after the legionnaires' disease outbreak in which 36 people died.

Officials said yesterday that, although the water in the hospital's cooling system, assumed to have been the source of the infection, had been disinfected 10 days ago and the building given a clean bill of health, only three in every ten

children with out-patients appointments were being brought in by their parents.

Overall, attendances in the out-patients were down by 30 per cent. Mr Jim Barlett, general manager of the Mid-Shropshire District Health Authority, said:

"We are very worried about the low attendances, particularly of children. It indicates that people do not appreciate the hospital is safe. There is absolutely no reason why anyone should not bring their

infection were already ill with the disease, acquired elsewhere, when admitted.

Tests on cooling towers at the Royal Liverpool, then and later, proved negative for the organism responsible for the disease.

A research programme at the hospital, aimed at developing a new rapid means of diagnosing the disease, has had to be suspended this year as a direct result of government cuts.

The only patients treated for the

there was a national shortage of specialists trained to deal with them.

The Royal Liverpool Hospital yesterday pointed out that no patient has ever acquired legionnaires' disease in the hospital. An article in *The Times* last week wrongly implied that the hospital was the source of an infection in 1980. The only patients treated for the

## Benefit for under-26s to be cut, MP says

By Nicholas Timmins  
Social Services  
Correspondent

Unemployed men and women aged 25 and under are to be forced on to a new, lower rate of supplementary benefit, losing at least £5 a week. The Government is also to legislate to stop local authorities giving free school meals and free milk to children whose families are not on the lowest level of state support, Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dunfermline East said yesterday.

Mr Brown said he had it from authoritative sources that the moves are planned as part of the Government's reviews of social security.

Those aged under 26, he said, will in future be treated as "juveniles" by the social security system to try to force them to stay with their families rather than become householders able to claim benefit in their own right.

"The idea is to force the unemployed on to lower benefits on the assumption that there are jobs they would take if benefits were lower," he said. But Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, had told a select committee last year that he was "totally unconvinced" that benefit levels prevented people taking jobs.

Under the Government's new Family Credit which will replace Family Income Supplement paid to 200,000 claimants, the families would no longer be entitled to free school meals or school milk, Mr Brown said.

"Legislation will be introduced to prevent local authorities providing free meals and milk to children whose parents are not on basic supplementary benefit," he said.

For a million people aged between 18 and 25 on supplementary benefit, benefit would be cut from £28 to £23 a week, but they could then lose up to another £10 a week from other cuts. Along with the other six million claimants of housing benefit, they would have to pay 20 per cent of their rates.

In addition, there were plans to cut unemployment benefit from one year to six months.

Mr Brown said he was told that the Government planned to save £500 million a year from housing benefit, taking 1.8 million people out of benefit entirely, £200 million from not uprating child benefit in line with inflation, and £200 million in cuts in supplementary benefit.

## MPs reject teachers' call for talks

The biggest teachers' union has twice asked to see the House of Commons select committee on education for informal talks to explain the teachers' pay dispute and has been rebuffed both times.

The National Union of Teachers wrote to all MPs on the select committee before they visited Newcastle upon Tyne as part of their inquiry into primary schooling to ask if it could brief them on the cause of the dispute and its accompanying strikes.

Sir William van Straubenzee, the Conservative chairman of the select committee, replied that that would not be appropriate because some MPs were not present on the Newcastle visit.

He felt it was not right to meet the union on a trip the purpose of which was to visit primary schools, particularly on a day when the first round of teachers' strikes was taking place.

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The trial continues today.

## Jail for parking questioned by law officer

By Michael Hornsall

Mr Steven Owen, aged 23, a self-employed Scottish builder, is considering taking legal action after spending three days in custody over two minor parking offences.

Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor General for Scotland, admitted that a local court was wrong in granting a warrant for his arrest, last February.

Mr Owen faced two charges of contravening the Road Traffic Act, 1974, after a van he uses for his work was found twice last year on yellow lines near his home in Market Street, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh.

The court action came after Mr Owen's failure to return inquiry letters about the ownership of the vehicle which had been sent by police.

solicitor, said yesterday: "I regard it as scandalous that a warrant can be incompetently obtained and then applied so rigorously in respect of such a trivial matter."

"When I was told Mr Owen had been arrested I applied to the procurator fiscal to authorise police to release him until his court appearance, but he refused. He lost a great deal of income and has cause for redress."

Mr Fraser carried out an inquiry into the case after it was raised by Mr John Home Robertson, Labour MP for East Lothian, and Mr Owen's MP, Mr Owen was not available for comment last night.

On December 19 a police officer served on Mr Owen a copy complaint and citation

requiring him to appear at East Lothian district court nine days later to answer two charges of contravening the Road Traffic Act, 1974.

When he failed to appear the case was continued without plea until January 9, 1985 and a letter was allegedly sent to Mr Owen informing him, which he denies receiving.

When on January 9 he again failed to appear, the case was further continued without plea until January 23. But an instruction by the procurator fiscal to the police to inform him of the new date was not carried out because officers were unable to contact him at home.

On January 23 the procurator fiscal depu- conducting the proceedings made a motion to the court for a warrant to

arrest Mr Owen, which was granted. In a letter to Mr Robertson, Mr Peter Fraser, Solicitor General for Scotland, said it was not open for the procurator fiscal to move for a warrant and admit that it was wrongly granted.

Nevertheless, Mr Owen was arrested on February 9 but did not appear in court until February 12 because of an intervening court holiday. After being held in custody he pleaded guilty to both charges and was admonished.

Mr Fraser said in his letter to Mr Robertson: "You may think it unfortunate that Mr Owen found himself in custody in respect of the minor charges... however I think it can fairly be said that he contributed to his own misfortune."

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سكراين الرابع



## Women to test technique for early detection of abnormal foetuses

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Medical Research Council is to launch a three-year study into the safety of a new technique which should greatly improve the detection of foetal abnormalities.

The technique, chorion villus sampling, should allow earlier, safer and less traumatic abortions in cases where abnormalities such as Down's Syndrome are detected, and earlier reassurance for pregnant women at risk of having an abnormal baby when all is well.

The study, to be carried out at a cost of £70,000 in between 15 and 20 British centres in co-operation with European centres, will compare the safety and effectiveness of the technique with amniocentesis, the standard technique for detecting foetal abnormality.

Between 2,000 and 4,000 women will take part in the trial. They and their children will be put on a national register to allow them to be followed up to ensure there are no long-term hazards from the technique.

Chorion villus sampling (CVS) involves taking a minute piece of the developing placenta, at eight to eleven weeks of pregnancy, and testing cells for inherited abnormalities ranging from Down's Syndrome to Huntington's chorea, phenylketonuria and the blood dis-

orders haemophilia, thalassaemia and sickle-cell disease. DNA probes, which will detect cystic fibrosis and muscular dystrophy, are also under development.

With amniocentesis, in which some of the fluid surrounding the foetus is drawn off, cells on which the tests are performed have to be grown. The test cannot be done before 15 weeks of pregnancy and results are often not available until 19 weeks, when abortions are more traumatic and riskier than in the first three months of pregnancy.

With CVS more cells are available, removing the need to grow them, so the test is not only done earlier but results are available more quickly.

The technique, developed during the past three years, has so far been used on between 300 and 400 women in Britain. Early studies suggest that it may result in an abortion in between 2 per cent and 5 per cent of cases. The risks of amniocentesis causing loss of the foetus are put at between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent.

The aim of the council's study is to establish precisely the relative risks of the two techniques and the cases in which the CVS may be more suitable.

Dr Tom M'Keade, chairman of the research council's working party on CVS, said yesterday: "There is a very fine balance between the two approaches. Amniocentesis is probably less hazardous but means considerably later diagnosis of any genetic disorder. CVS may be more hazardous to the normal foetus, but gives a much earlier diagnosis."

The trial should establish the real risks. But if the technique proves as safe as amniocentesis, it will revolutionize the prenatal diagnosis of genetic disease, the council said. The technique, as well as being easier, should also prove cheaper than amniocentesis.

Most of the women who will be asked to take part in the study, randomly allocated to testing by amniocentesis or CVS, will be aged 35, when they run a higher risk of a Down's Syndrome child.

Entry into the trial will be voluntary, and any woman who has had a previous abnormal baby will be able to opt for CVS if she wishes to.

The council said that "where there has not been a previously abnormal pregnancy, we hope patients will decide to take part in the trial, both in their own interests and in the interests of other patients in the future."

## Train driver admits drinking

Stephen Rowlands, a British Train driver, admitted to magistrates in Wallington, Surrey, yesterday that he had drunk two pints of lager at a club before going on duty and that he drove through four stations without stopping.

But he said he was only following the instructions on his job sheet and did not break the rules.

Mr Roland Hartfield, British Rail depot manager at Selhurst,

south-east London, told the court that drivers are supposed to check the job sheet against the working timetable. But they often just followed their instructions cards.

Mr Rowlands, aged 26, of Station Approach, Coulsdon, Surrey, said he was following what another driver had written on his job sheet. He also admitted picking up a man wearing a high visibility jacket at Wimbledon station.

He said: "I had seen him about on the track. He said 'Hallo driver. Will you drop me off at East Croydon?' I said 'Yes, mate', expecting him to be staff."

Mr Rowlands denies being drunk while driving the London Bridge to Sutton train last September, missing stations, and having a friend in the cab with him.

The hearing continues today.

## Woman, 79, drove on three wheels

Ethel Beardsworth, aged 79, who turned on her car radio to drown the noise as she drove on three wheels was yesterday banned from driving for two years and fined a total of £325.

Magistrates in Chertsey, Surrey, had been told how twice within 12 days she caused havoc on the roads.

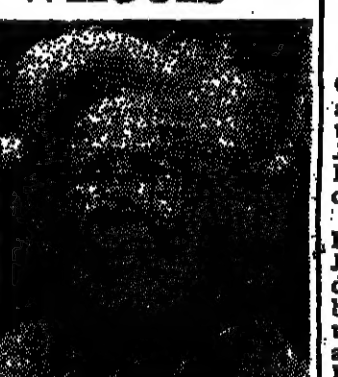
The first time, other drivers were forced to take avoiding action as she drove in the wrong direction down a dual carriageway on the A3 at Woking.

Less than two weeks later she drove on three tyres through Chobham and Addlestone after a front tyre burst.

She appeared before magistrates with a broken wrist after falling off her bicycle while the car was being repaired.

Beardsworth, of Rydens Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, widow of an air vice-marshal, who told the police she passed her advanced driver's test two years ago, pleaded guilty to two offences of driving without due care and attention, using a motor car in a dangerous condition and driving with defective eyesight.

Sergeant Stephen Buckle told the court that the police were able to stop her on the A3 on April 15 only by driving in the wrong direction on the dual carriageway themselves. She told them that she was not driving in the wrong direction. The officers gave Beardsworth an eyesight test and she



Ethel Beardsworth: banned for two years.

could read a vehicle index plate only from 31 feet away.

Sergeant Buckle said that 12 days later Beardsworth was driving her Ford Fiesta along Chertsey Road, Chobham, towards Ottershaw when two cars overtook her.

"She steered into the near-side kerb, hitting it, and burst the front nearside tyre. She heard the noise but turned the radio on because she wanted to get home."

Then a man spoke to her at traffic lights and tried to tell her something was wrong. Sergeant Buckle said: "But she just replied that she was going shopping. In the interests of safety he removed her ignition key."

By that time the wheel and the front bumper of her car were missing.

## Soldier denies killing three in pay robbery

A soldier mentioned in dispatches while serving in Northern Ireland yesterday denied shooting dead three men in a payroll robbery.

Corporal Andrew Walker, of The Royal Scots, told the High Court in Edinburgh that he believed the killings were the work of a terrorist organization.

He added: "There is no way I would have had the capability of shooting three people, cold-bloodedly, in the head."

He was giving evidence on the tenth day of the trial to answer questions by Mr Donald Macaulay, for the defence.

Questioned by the Lord Advocate, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, Corporal Walker said that he tried to borrow a 9mm pistol from a soldier on the day before the killings.

It is alleged that Corporal Walker shot Major David Cunningham (retd), Staff Sergeant Terence Hosker and Private John Thomson on January 17 somewhere between Penicuik and Flotterstone Glen.

Corporal Walker, aged 31, denies murder and robbery and has lodged a special defence of alibi.

The trial was adjourned until today.

## Chief Rabbi at dismissal hearing

Sir Immanuel Jakobovits, the Chief Rabbi, is to appear before a rabbinical court being set up to settle the dispute between the Jews College in London and Rabbi Simche Liebermann, a dismissed lecturer.

The agreement to create a Beth Din, which is unusual in Jewish law, comes after a dispute lasting several months between Rabbi Liebermann and the college over his dismissal after 14 years of service. Sir Immanuel will appear in his capacity as college president.

The Rabbi claims that he was unfairly dismissed after a dispute over the orthodoxy of teaching at the college, which trains most of Britain's rabbis. There he was also a personal dispute with the new principal of the college, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, a former pupil of Rabbi Liebermann.

## £100,000 bail for man on Libya charge

Godfrey Shiner, a British tax exile, was freed on £100,000 bail in London yesterday despite police fears that he would be in danger of "Libyan retribution" if released.

Shiner, aged 47, who was arrested at Heathrow airport on Monday, has been charged with conspiring with Anthony Gill to help Colonel Gaddafi's brother-in-law to flee Britain to escape a drugs trial.

Shiner appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court after being deported from Egypt, where he was detained in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate a former Libyan Prime Minister who was a leading Gaddafi opponent.

The police are alleging that Shiner conspired to fund the escape of Muhammad Shabli to Libya in a light aircraft six days before he was to go on trial at Croydon Crown Court for possession of cannabis and cocaine.

The magistrate, Mr Eric Crowther, remanded Shiner until June 12 on two sureties of £30,000. He was also ordered to deposit a £40,000 cash security, surrender his passports, and report nightly to police.



Opening ceremony: Buddhist monks (above) at the inauguration yesterday of the 110ft peace pagoda (below), in Battersea Park, London, a gift to the capital from the Nipponzan Myohoji sect (Photographs: John Manning).

## Rules soon on drug test payments

By Thomson Prentice

Strict new guidelines aimed at protecting medical students and others who volunteer for "guinea pig" drug tests are to be published by the Royal College of Physicians of London this year.

The college has been conducting an inquiry into drug testing after the deaths in the past 12 months of two students, in Cardiff and Dublin, who took part in experiments for pharmaceutical products.

The college is examining questions of payments to volunteers, their fitness to take part in tests and compensation in the event of death, illness or injury.

"Our main objective is to increase the protection of the volunteer. There is a great advantage in carrying out these tests but we feel they must be regulated", Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, president of the college, said.

The college has taken evidence from students, drug companies, insurance companies and others.

## School not told girl was in care

By Tony Samstag

When Jasmine Beckford, aged four, attended a local nursery school with bruises on her face, staff accepted her mother's explanation that the child had fallen off a bicycle because they had never been told she was under a care order, the independent enquiry into her death was told yesterday.

Had they known they "would have contacted a social worker right away", Mrs Ashley Fayer, who was then a nursery assistant at Princess Fredericka School, Kensal Green, north London, said.

The child's increasingly poor attendance record in her nine months at the school during 1983 would also have caused concern, she added.

The girl's stepfather and mother, Maurice Beckwood and Beverly Lorrington, both aged 25, were jailed last March in connection with her death while in the care of Brent Council. The inquiry, at Brent Town Hall, continues today.



## Surge in retail spending continues

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Spending in shops rose again last month as consumers shrugged off the effects of higher mortgage rates and the gloomy spring weather.

The volume of retail sales rose by 0.5 per cent in April to the second highest level on record. The Department of Trade and Industry's volume index stood at 114.4 (1980=100), compared with 113.8 in March and December's record of 115.6.

The department said the increase was across the board and that was confirmed by the leading retail groups.

The John Lewis Partnership, department stores and the Waitrose supermarket chain said that the first week in May had been particularly strong after a good April.

The Retail Consortium said the April figures could have been even better had there not been poor weather, including one Saturday when it snowed. The weather is thought to have been responsible for sluggish sales of women's spring and summer clothing.

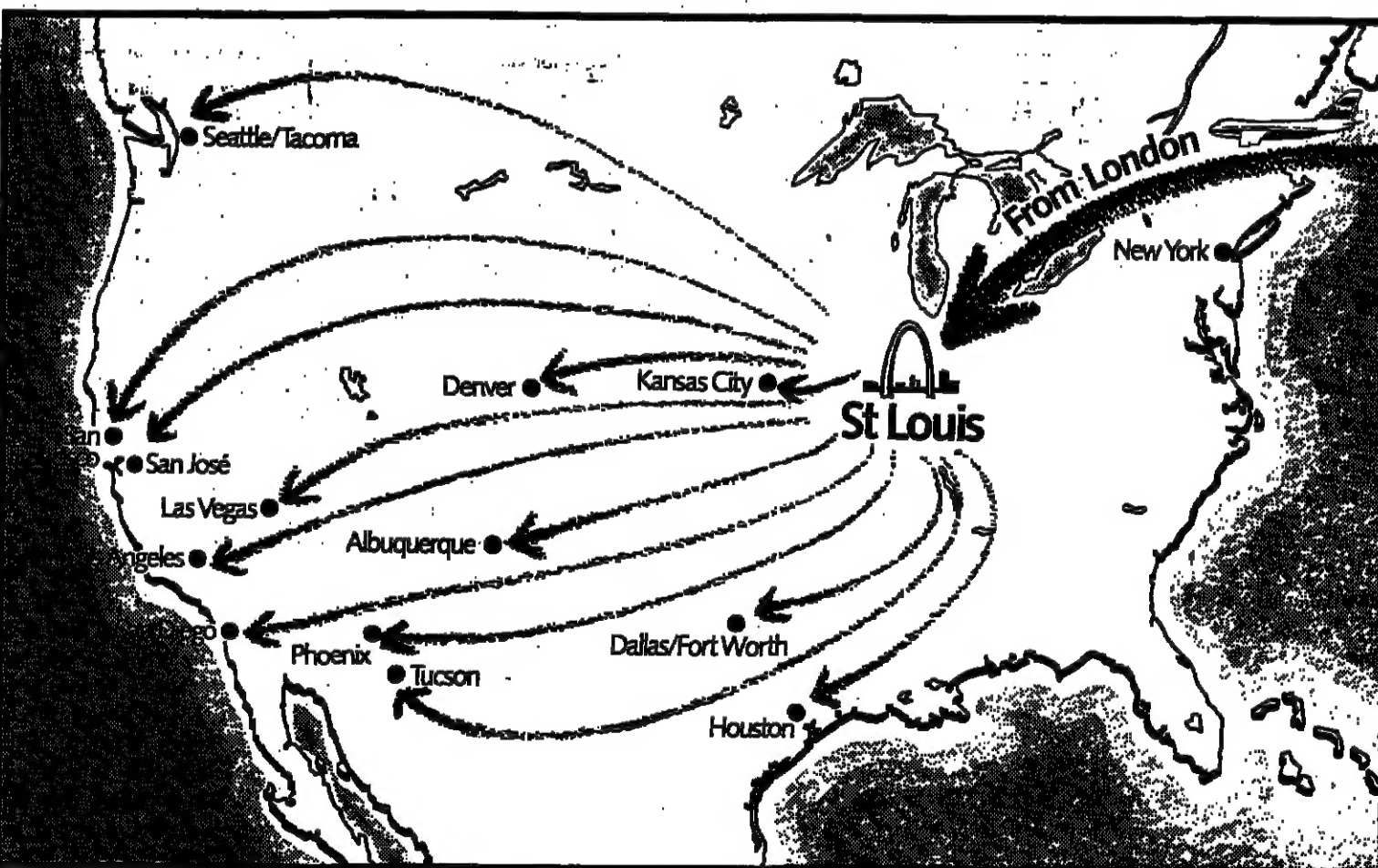
The April sales volume was 4 per cent higher than a year earlier, and the value of sales was 8 per cent higher.

## Access cuts its fraud losses

The Access credit card company has reduced fraud losses this year despite an increase of a quarter in its turnover. The company said yesterday that fraud losses in the first three months of this year amounted to £1.5 million, £200,000 less than in the equivalent period of 1984.

Last year 17p in every £100 spent on Access was lost to fraud. So far this year the figure has been reduced to 12p. Charges are the principal area for fraudulent use of cards.

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## Five new versions of Nova go on sale

By our Motoring Correspondent

Vauxhall announces today five new versions of its Spanish-made Nova to add to the 11 already on sale here. Their arrival will add fuel to the increasing controversy about unfair importing of Spanish cars.

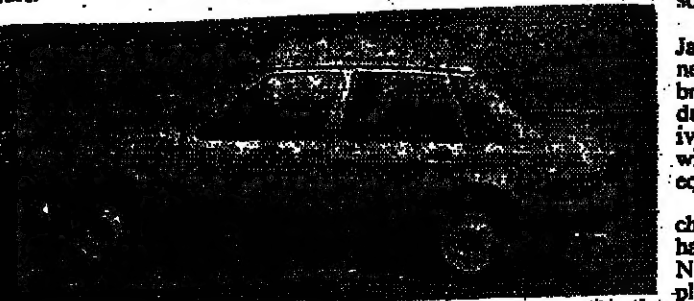
Last week Seat, the state-owned Spanish car maker, disclosed that it planned to export 20,000 cut-price cars a year to Britain.

General Motors, Vauxhall's American parent, and Ford already import more than

100,000 Spanish Fiestas and Novas a year. They pay less than 4 per cent import duty, while Austin Rover cars travelling in the opposite direction are subject to an average of 30 per cent import tax. As a result only 4,000 British cars were sold in Spain last year.

Spain joins the EEC on January 1 but has persuaded her new partners to permit a breathing space of seven years during which she will progressively remove tariff barriers. It will be 1991 before "free and equal" trade is possible.

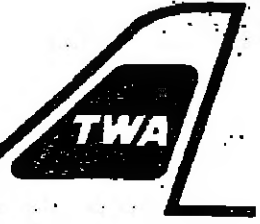
Previous saloon and hatchback versions of the Nova had only two passenger doors. Now they are being supplemented by models with rear passenger doors. Prices range from £4,053 to £6,055.



The Vauxhall Nova four-door saloon, one of five new versions of the Spanish-made car to be sold in Britain.



Leading the way to the USA





PARLIAMENT MAY 14 1985

Help for ratepayers

Football tragedy

Oil regime

Commentary

# Fowler attacks scare stories: pensions tax relief unchanged

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the House of Commons he was not prepared to be judged on the basis of the Green Paper to be published after Whitson on the future of social security and pensions and not prepared to be judged on the basis of the Opposition's continued to do, which it knew perfectly well could not be fulfilled.

The Government's proposals would not, he added, affect the basic pension. The Government remained absolutely committed to pensioners. There were no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions.

There was total agreement that the social security system must be reviewed against the needs which gave him most cause for concern was families with children, where there was undoubtedly need at the moment.

Mr O'Donnell (Thurrock, Lab): Phasing out the state pensioner's pension scheme (Serps) will mean that more pensioners in the future will have to rely on supplementary benefits and that both workers and employers will have to pay higher national insurance contributions for workers to get far less by way of pensions in the future.

The Prime Minister's move on from being a milk snatcher to being a pensions snatcher.

Mr Fowler: That is a very silly statement. The proposals do not affect the basic pension. Our position on that is clear. The basic pension has increased by 84 per cent compared to a 77 per cent rise in prices and we remain absolutely committed to the pensioners of this country.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab): Scrapping Serps is yet another attempt to cut public expenditure in order to give further tax hand-outs to the rich, irrespective of the fact that 11 million contributors could

lose their pension rights and many thousands more could be living in poverty at the turn of the century.

Mr Fowler: I do not accept the last part of what he said. Not will he, when he sees the proposals. It would be utterly irresponsible of any Government not to look forward and make some judgement of what the costs are that this country is going to have to bear.

Mr O'Donnell (Thurrock, Lab): Instead of devising ways of taking money from those less able to support themselves in our community, instead of devising ways of scrapping housing benefit for millions of people, why does not the Minister consider in his review ways of helping people in most need?

For example why does he not extend to elderly people living in public sector housing the right to live rent-free in the way owner-occupiers have?

Mr Fowler: Yes. Need and definition of need has changed. We have got to have a modern social security system and that is why this Government is putting forward a Green Paper so that the public and the country can know what the issues are.

Mr Margaret Beckett, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Expansion of private cover to those covered by Serps seems likely to cost about £3,000 million to £6,000 million extra in tax relief alone. Can the Secretary of State tell us how soon we can expect the Chancellor of the Exchequer to renege on his commitment not to change tax relief for private pensioners?

Mr Fowler: There are no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions. The biggest swindle on pensioners is the one that was carried out in 1976 by the last Labour Government when they changed the basis of up-rating and save £1,200 million. That was what the Labour Party did when they were in power.

He said later that an important part of the whole study and the debate which would follow it was the relationship between the social security system and the tax system. Both he and the Chancellor were conscious of this.

Mr Fowler: There are no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions. The biggest swindle on pensioners is the one that was carried out in 1976 by the last Labour Government when they changed the basis of up-rating and save £1,200 million. That was what the Labour Party did when they were in power.

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That is right and that is why the Government set up the review.

Mr Brian Mawhinney (Petersborough, C): Many of us are looking forward to reading his review in the confident expectation that it will fully protect the standard of living of those of our fellow-citizens who are genuinely in need.

Mr Fowler: Yes and I think that will be one of the standards, which MPs and the country will want to apply to the proposals that are set out. There seems to me total agreement that the social security system must be looked at again, and this Government is doing that when other governments have failed it.

Mr Timothy Eggar (Enfield, North, C): The needs of citizens have changed over the last 40 years. Would not we be failing in our duty if we did not take this opportunity of reviewing the system?

Mr Fowler: Yes. Need and definition of need has changed. We have got to have a modern social security system and that is why this Government is putting forward a Green Paper so that the public and the country can know what the issues are.

Mr Margaret Beckett, an Opposition spokesman on health and social security: Expansion of private cover to those covered by Serps seems likely to cost about £3,000 million to £6,000 million extra in tax relief alone. Can the Secretary of State tell us how soon we can expect the Chancellor of the Exchequer to renege on his commitment not to change tax relief for private pensioners?

Mr Fowler: There are no plans to change the tax relief on occupational pensions. The biggest swindle on pensioners is the one that was carried out in 1976 by the last Labour Government when they changed the basis of up-rating and save £1,200 million. That was what the Labour Party did when they were in power.

He said later that an important part of the whole study and the debate which would follow it was the relationship between the social security system and the tax system. Both he and the Chancellor were conscious of this.

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## BRADFORD FIRE

Mrs Margaret Thatcher was pressed in the Commons by Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, over the use of Government money to improve safety at Bradford City stadium following the Bradford City fire disaster.

The Prime Minister, who will today be meeting Lord Aberdeen, chairman of the Football Trust, said the situation was complicated. It would be best to have a thorough inquiry rather than jump to conclusions.

Mr Kinnock, opening the exchanges, said: As we grieve with those most directly affected by the

tragedy at Valley Parade on Saturday, may I ask her two questions, both of which require immediate reassurance.

Will the Government ensure that none of the bereaved or those who suffered grievous injury will have to endure additional suffering if it becomes evident that Bradford City Albion does not have sufficient insurance cover to meet all legitimate claims?

Is the Government prepared to use part of the large reserves it derives directly from football for immediately undertaking an extensive programme of improvement to safety at public grounds?

Mrs Thatcher: It would be best to have a thorough inquiry rather than jump to conclusions.

Mr Kinnock allowed us time to look into all the financial matters first

and so exactly how much is covered by insurance and also the various disaster funds which have been started.

I shall be seeing the chairman of the Football Trust, Lord Aberdeen, tomorrow.

The situation is complicated. There is £7 million a year goes to the Football Trust from 20 per cent of the turnover of the Spot. The Ball Competition. Half of this goes to the Football Grounds Improvement Trust for ground improvements at Football League clubs.

In 1984 the improvement trust accounts had £3.3 million in its bank balance because there had been insufficient extra demand from the league clubs for ground improvements.

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## Contract services should not affect efficiency

There was no intrinsic reason why hospital services should be better whether the employees were employed in-house or contracted, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said during Commons questions.

What matters (he said) is good management and cost effective services of the right standard.

Many local authorities were finding it easier to get standards of outside contractors improved than to cope with some in-house cleaners when bad management over the years had let standards decline.

Mr Michael Mawhinney, chief Opposition spokesman on Social Services, said that whatever profit privatisation was producing it was also worsening standards of care in the NHS.

A hip operation on a woman in her sixties (he said) had to be cancelled in this last month at Addenbrooks, Cambridge, when blood and bone were found on the floor because the private contractors, OCS, had not cleaned the theatre after the previous day's operation. Such examples are frequent.

The level of cross-infection in hospitals has reached the record level of 100 per cent and is undoubtedly due partly to the squalid standards of much privatised cleaners.

Mr Clarke: There is a great deal of scandalous propaganda going on in support of vested interests in the trade union and Labour movement who wish to have cleaning costs kept up. His example is entirely untrue in the way he has given it.

Blood and bone dust found in Addenbrooks theatre after the hip operation not included in the

specifications of the outside cleaners and a great deal has been made of it. The fault cannot be laid at the door of the outside contractor.

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## London-wide arts body rejected

We fear (he went on) on the evidence before us that what the minister brushes aside as a small shortlist is turning into a wholesale and widespread reduction in arts grants which will do real damage.

The Arts Council of Great Britain, Minister for the Arts, said there were real worries and anxieties that abolition could adversely affect an area of life which they all value very much morally and which increasingly they were learning to value in material terms as well.

He spent his first six months as Minister working on policies specifically designed to allay the bulk of these anxieties and had already announced that the Government was to make available £34 million in additional central funding in 1986-87 and equivalent sums in later years.

The 34 million did not represent the full amount of the arts at the GLC and metropolitan county councils. This was deliberate and was a principle of precisely what he wished to do.

I have made it plain throughout (he continued) that local arts activities should attract local funding. The boroughs and district councils will be expected to play their part after abolition, particularly in the case of local arts bodies within their own boundaries.

These boroughs and districts would after all have been relieved of the levy to the GLC and metropolitan county councils. They would be expected to add to their relief from full responsibility for the most expensive arts activities and institutions due to the permanent increases in central funding.

They all had to wrestle with their current costs, as central government had found, but the total expenditure by these authorities on the arts was not of a kind that was liable to get them ended up in some rate-capper's goal.

Lord Jenkins of Putney (Lab), for the Opposition, said the minister had not succeeded in convincing many people in the arts world and all those who were dependent upon arts funding throughout the country.

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## Rise in drug abuse is most serious criminal menace police chief says

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

About 250,000 people may be addicted to opium derivatives by the end of the decade if drug abuse continues to grow at the present alarming rate, according to an estimate quoted by Sir Lawrence Byford, Chief Inspector of Constabulary yesterday.

There is growing recognition within the police that the consequences of the upsurge in drug addiction represents the most serious criminal menace facing us over the next few years, he said.

Sir Lawrence, who was giving the presidential address to the Police Mutual Assurance Society at its annual conference in Torquay, said that many burglaries were being committed to finance drug addiction.

In spite of the seizure of 300 kilograms of heroin last year by customs officers, the most so far, the drug's street price had never been lower, showing that there was no scarcity.

Sir Lawrence, who was reviewing the work of the police in a "momentous year", said that the success of mutual aid arrangements during the miners' strike showed that extra officers could be provided in

any part of the country without the need for a specialist unit such as a "third tier force", similar to the French CRS.

The success of the National Reporting Centre, also provides a positive argument against the formation of a national police force, he said.

Sir Lawrence is chairman of a working group of chief constables and others examining security for future party conferences after the attack on the Grand Hotel, Brighton, during the Conservative Party conference.

He said that increased security could be gained only with a corresponding decrease in civil liberties, and the right balance had to be found.

Sir Lawrence said that the case load of each officer had increased on average from 1 in a decade to 29.

With budgets at a standstill and significant reductions in some cases, chief constables were having to select priorities for expenditure.

The number of graduates in the service, now more than 4,000, were increasing at an annual rate of 25 per cent.

## Duke case jury told of 'seedy trio'

Three men on trial on charges concerning the Duke of Devonshire's missing cheques were described as "a seedy little trio" by Crown counsel at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Anthony Wilcken, for the prosecution, making his final speech to the jury in the three-week trial, said: "These men haunted a West End night club and casino and put their heads together to take advantage of the duke, a short-sighted old man with odd habits."

He added: "They took advantage of the duke's weaknesses and foibles of leaving things lying around in his own house."

Mr Wilcken said it was almost as if the Duke of Devonshire was being blamed. There has been a certain amount of public attack on his personal life and behaviour, totally without foundation in this trial.

Peter Callaghan, aged 26, a former manager of Leicester Street, Westminster, one of the Duke's former butlers, denies stealing three cheques from a desk drawer in the duke's study at his home, in Chesterfield Street, Mayfair, in August 1983. Heraklis "Ricky" Kouzoupis, aged 31, a businessman, of Hereford Road, Acton, and Andrew Shellis, aged 43, hairdresser, Northolt Road, Harrow, all of London, have pleaded not guilty to passing two of the cheques for £51,000 and trying to cash the third for a further £39,000. Their trial continues today.

## Ulster goes to the polls today

From Richard Ford, Belfast

For the fifth time in five years the people of Northern Ireland go to the polls today after a local government election campaign punctuated by clerical arguments disclosing the extent of the sectarian divide.

A Presbyterian minister from Co Londonderry left the province after abuse over closer links with Roman Catholics, while a priest who visited one of the Rev Ian Paisley's churches was accused of "stirring up bigotry".

In East Belfast the placing of a polling station in a Roman Catholic school was called a "sinister" attempt to deter Protestants from voting.

The campaign itself has lacked the intensity of previous contests.

Overshadowing the election are the prospect of Unionists having to sit with the Provisional IRA's political wing, Sinn Féin, in council chambers, and the suspicions aroused among "loyalists" at the present talks between Dublin and London.

Sinn Féin's entry into local government heralds frequent uproar as it can, with only a handful of councillors, launch popular nationalist initiatives involving emblems and the Irish language which will infuriate Unionists and force the Social Democratic and Labour Party into a more hard-line position.

## NHS ignores order to expand consultants

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Health authorities have failed to act on a government instruction to increase the proportion of hospital consultants to junior doctors.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, said yesterday that an increase in the ratio of consultants could give better value for

money in the National Health Service and possibly save more than £100million a year. The quality of health care would also improve, he said.

But in spite of a Department of Health and Social Security instruction in February 1982, little had been done and Sir Gordon expressed disappointment that health authorities had not been made more progress in assessing the costs and benefits.

A 1981 Commons select committee report, endorsed by the Government, said savings could be made by increasing the proportion of consultants to junior doctors because they made less use of services such as radiology and pathology, discharged patients earlier, and required fewer out-patient examinations.

Sir Gordon said the Government had been aware of the problem for about 25 years. He said "Measures to correct the imbalance have so far had little success."



Sir Gordon Downey: Disappointed.

## Anti-hunt men sent for trial

Two members of the Hunt Retribution Squad were committed for trial yesterday charged with conspiracy to disinter the remains of the tenth Duke of Beaufort.

Terence Helsby, aged 22, of White Hart Lane, Tottenham, north-east London, and John Curtin, also aged 22, of Kingland Avenue, Coventry, each face three other charges in connection with the alleged incident on Boxing Day last year.

They are each further accused of stealing the wooden cross, criminal damage to the church near by at Badminton, near Bristol. Avon North magistrates had been told that the defendants planned to send the head of the Duke to Princess Anne.

## Man killed in Kenya left clue for police

A British businessman was murdered in Kenya by robbers who beat him with a wooden club. But Mr Nigel Reddy left a clue for the police hunting his killers, an inquest was told yesterday.

He was taken to hospital where he regained consciousness briefly and murmured the name "Mungu" or "Mwangi".

The inquest at Battersea, south-west London, was told that Mr Reddy, aged 69, a company director, was found unconscious on his bed in a pool of blood last November.

He was flown later to hospital in Wimbledon, south London, where he died four months afterwards of bronchial pneumonia due to a brain haemorrhage.

A verdict of unlawful killing was returned.



Papal protest: Dutch police restraining a youth who tried to drop his trousers as the Pope drove past in Maastricht. There were no disturbances like those in Utrecht.

## US ships' Shanghai visit postponed

From Mary Lee, Peking

The Chinese Foreign Minister yesterday confirmed that US Navy ships will not be visiting Shanghai this Saturday as scheduled, because "a number of issues remain outstanding". The statement added that

both sides were continuing discussions, thus pointing to a postponement rather than a cancellation of the visit by three destroyers. It did not elaborate on what the outstanding issues were, but American statements confirmed earlier Peking reports that the main snag concerned nuclear arms on the vessels.

Since the nuclear issue arose in Peking, however, there have been other indications that the timing of the port call was now awkward for the Chinese. Diplomats here point to the recent visit by Mr Hu to North Korea, which is said to have objected to the visit.

## The Italian local elections

# Midterm challenge brings Craxi coalition stability

From John Earle, Rome

A feeling of relief and confidence for the future pervaded the five Italian government parties as the results came in yesterday from local elections which have been regarded as a midterm test for Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition.

Far from falling below 50 per cent, results from 15 of the 20 regional councils up for renewal showed the coalition parties were backed by 58.1 per cent of the electorate, against 53.9 per cent in last June's European elections.

A challenge by the Communists that they would overtake the Christian Democrats as the biggest individual party boom-crashed. The Communists gained only 30.2 per cent of the regional vote, against the Christian Democrats' 35 per cent.

Running through the comments of the leaders of the five parties - Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals - was the belief that the coalition has gained in stability and the five-party formula is the only practical one for the future.

Formed 21 months ago, Signor Craxi's Government is already one of the most enduring in the history of the Italian republic, in which the average life of governments has been 10 months.

The coalition should thus be

## Voting percentages of the main parties in the 15 regions

|            | Reg 85 | Euro 84 | Gen 83 | Reg 1980 |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|
| Chr Dem    | 35.0   | 33.0    | 32.6   | 36.8     |
| Comm       | 30.2   | 34.5    | 31.2   | 31.5     |
| Soc        | 13.3   | 11.3    | 11.4   | 12.7     |
| Nov Soc It | 6.5    | 6.3     | 6.6    | 5.9      |
| Rep        | 4.0    | N/A     | 5.2    | 3.0      |
| Soc Dem    | 3.6    | 3.4     | 4.0    | 5.0      |
| Lib        | 2.2    | N/A     | 3.0    | 2.7      |

In the European elections of 1984 the Republicans and Liberals stood together, obtaining 6.2 per cent.

better equipped to overcome the hurdles ahead. On June 9 a national referendum, promoted by the Communists, is to be held on repealing a law passed last year which took 27,000 lire (about £11) of wage indexation bonus out of monthly pay packets.

All the coalition parties are nominally against its repeal for the sake of combating inflation, but in practice none can be sure that its supporters will vote accordingly in the referendum.

With the local elections out of the way, the government is likely to make a final effort to avoid the referendum by seeking agreement with employers' organizations and trade unions.

The next hurdle will be the election in late June of the President of the republic, on the expiry of President Sandro Pertini's seven-year term.

The main threat to Signor Craxi's position, paradoxically,

may come from within the coalition. His tenure of office has seen the Socialist vote rise from 11.3 per cent at the European election to 13.3 per cent now. The Christian Democrats, whose recent decline is now halted, may at some stage decide to challenge him for the premiership, while retaining the five-party coalition formula.

Polling took place in 15 of the 20 regions, 86 of the 92 provinces, and more than 6,000 towns and villages.

Most results for local councils followed the general trend, except in Bolzano, capital of the largely German-speaking Alto Adige or South Tyrol. Here, backed by the Italian population, the neo-fascist Movimento Sociale Italiano has become the first party on a nationalistic anti-German ticket which may spell trouble between the two communities.

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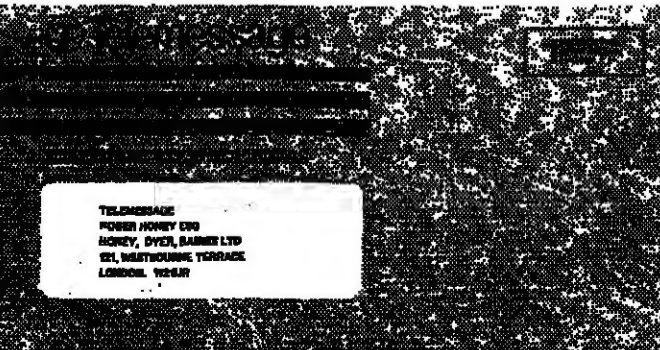
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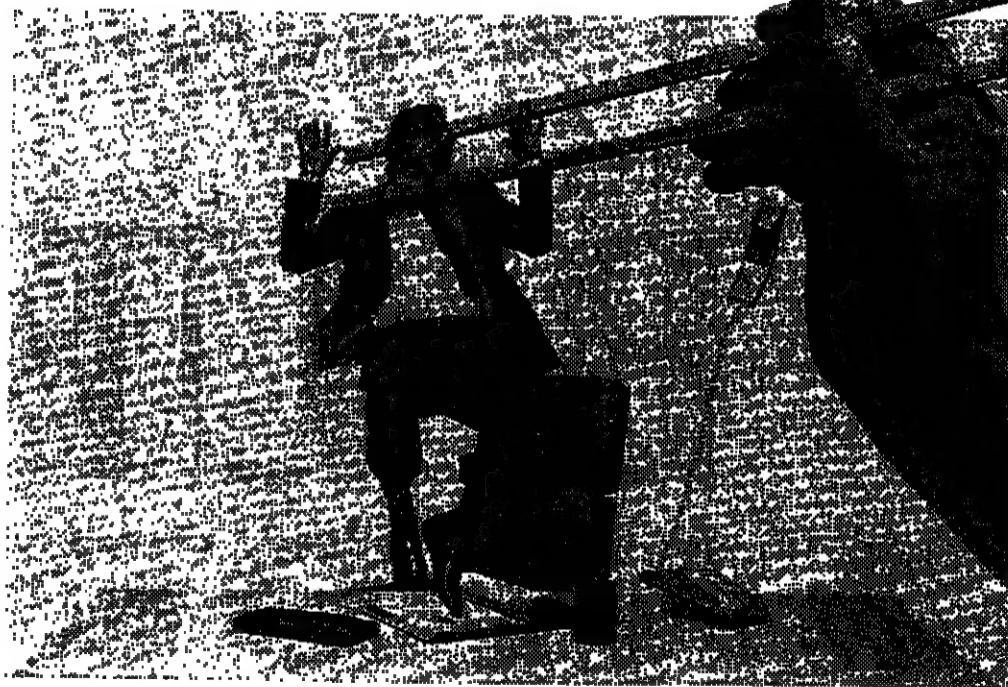
## DIVERSE REPORTS

Tonight's report at 8.30 will open your eyes. A French TV crew takes a surreptitious look at the streets of Shanghai.

They discover a seamier side to the changing face of China.

That 'business deals' are replacing communist ideals. Micros are more popular than Mao. And a thriving black market is the best way to get anything.

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On Sunday at 7.15 Malcolm Penny looks at the spiders of the world and shows us how your nightmares survive.



KEEP YOUR EYE ON

# 4

صكرا من الرحمن



## Politburo man ousted in party reckoning over murder of Polish priest

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Mr Miroslaw Milewski, a hardline Marxist and erstwhile security police chief, was yesterday dropped from the Polish Communist party's Politburo in what was the final political reckoning for the murder by secret policemen of the Solidarity priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko.

The party's Central Committee, meeting to discuss the problems of winning over the Polish intelligentsia, said that it had accepted "Mr Milewski's resignation" but gave no reason. There was, in truth, no point in doing so. The move has been expected since the killing of Father Popieluszko last October. General Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, relieved Mr Milewski of his role as party overseer of the police and security services, and a December session of the Central Committee criticised the lax party control of the security services.

As more and more secret police officers were weeded out of the Interior Ministry, so it seemed increasingly unlikely that Mr Milewski would survive

politically. But the dismissal was complicated by uncertainty over how Moscow would react to the displacement of a man so much in line with Soviet policies.

The recent backing by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, for Poland's economic reforms, and the rejection of the appeal of the four secret police officers who murdered Father Popieluszko cleared the way for the "resignation".

The appeal hearings again stated that there was no evidence of high-level involvement in the murder, allowing the Government to present the dismissal of Mr Milewski as a purely political move, rather than an attempt to implicate him in the crime.

The Politburo has thus lost a hardliner and shifted the balance of advantage even further towards those who agree in their hearts with the limited reforms of General Jaruzelski. The general has also taken the opportunity to promote to full Central Committee membership General Jozef Baryla, a close associate, and an expert

on matters of ideology, training and propaganda in the Army.

Mr Jozef Czyrek, a senior Politburo member, addressing the Central Committee, emphasized that the party must jolt the country's intellectuals out of their passivity and get them more involved in party work. At the same time, the authorities would also press hard against the "enemies of socialism".

As if to underline his point, the Gdansk public prosecutor announced that the trial of Mr Adam Michnik, the dissident historian, and two Solidarity activists, Mr Wladyslaw Frasyniuk and Mr Bogdan Lis, would begin on May 23. Police have also searched the flat of a dissident journalist, Mr Stefan Bratkowski, and after finding a receipt for hard currency have charged him with currency offences.

Mr Jerzy Urban, the Government spokesman, yesterday confirmed reports that a man has confessed to having been ordered to kill Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader. The man was under arrest, he said.



Top-level contact: Mr George Shultz, US Secretary of State, with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, before their talks at the Soviet Embassy in Vienna yesterday. The meeting lasted longer than expected.

## Reagan tries to stay inside limits of Salt 2

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration is considering several options for keeping down the number of land and sea-based intercontinental nuclear missiles to comply with limits set by the unratified Salt 2 pact, which expires at the end of the year.

President Reagan is under considerable congressional pressure not to abandon the limits. Two Republican and two Democratic senators have written to him saying that abandoning the limits would "cast a pall over the arms talks in Geneva, seriously damage important US foreign policy interests" and end superpower restraint on deployment.

Administration officials are considering whether to put an older Poseidon submarine in dry dock in an attempt to avoid direct violation of the 1979 pact, which was never ratified by the Senate.

Another option is to delay the sea trials which are due to begin in September of the USS Alaska, a new Trident submarine with 24 intercontinental missiles. Those trials would put the US 14 missiles above the Salt 2 limit of 1,200 multi-warhead missiles overall.

The senators appealed to President Reagan to abide by the limits after statements from the President and Mr Richard Perle, Assistant Defence Secretary, questioning whether the US should continue observing the pact.

The options have a distinctly temporary flavour. For example, if the Poseidon is taken out of service, its firing tubes might not be dismantled, allowing it to be redeployed with nuclear missiles at short notice.

## WHO says a million in contact with Aids

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Up to a million people can be assumed to have been in contact with the virus of Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) which, the World Health Organization says, appears to be a world public health problem.

The estimated contacts are 80,000 in Europe, perhaps 10 times as many in the United States and, on the basis of limited surveys, a rapidly rising total in Central and East African countries.

These indications are given in the latest WHO survey, which underlines that transmission in Africa seems to be essentially heterosexual, as almost 50 per cent of cases are women. Elsewhere, more than 70 per cent have been in male homosexuals or intravenous drug addicts using unsterilized needles.

The overall estimate includes carriers, all those who will develop the disease over the incubation period of from 12 months (for children) up to five years, and many people in whom the virus may remain latent, without pathogenic symptoms in the lymph cells.

The actual number of Aids cases definitely diagnosed to date is, of course, much less: 12,000 in the US and 900 in Europe.

In the US and Europe, the number of cases doubled every six months up to 1983 and is now doubling every year.

WHO says there are "great hopes in researches which may result in the availability of an Aetiological treatment". On the basis of current research, it estimates that an effective vaccine may still be five years away.

## Kohl throws down gauntlet to EEC

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Chancellor Kohl yesterday flung down the gauntlet to his EEC partners, challenging them to let West Germany have its way on this year's farm price agreement or risk upsetting the political balance of the Community.

In an angry message to M Jacques Delors, the Commission president, the chancellor said: "You have to learn it is not possible to put one of the most important member states under such pressure."

He gave his full backing to Herr Ignaz Kiechle, his Agriculture Minister, who has said he is prepared to use a veto rather than accept any form of price cut for cereal farmers. Herr Kiechle repeated this threat vehemently yesterday as agriculture ministers resumed their seemingly hopeless search for a price settlement.

"We cannot agree to a policy which will force our farmers to lose out because of the pressure for price cuts," he said.

out of hand the latest compromise proposals from the Commission, which suggest cereal price cuts of just 2 per cent rather than the 3.6 per cent reduction originally asked for.

The political importance of the cereal is that until now West Germany has always refused to accept that any country has the right of veto. Were Herr Kiechle to use it, a substantial part of the intense argument on the subject in the Community would certainly collapse. The mere threat of using it has been damaging enough.

Herr Rudi Arndt, leader of the Socialist group in the European Parliament, described the position of his country's government as scandalous. "All the statements of the federal government about European union have been reduced to lies. The movement towards European union has now been torpedoed."

Spain, which strongly supports the veto right, would certainly back West Germany if it refused to accept a veto, in marked contrast to what happened in 1982, when West Germany joined the majority in voting Britain down when it declared it had a vital national interest at stake in the agriculture price fixing that year.

Ministers were spending the night trying to end the impasse, against a warning from European farmers' organizations that "the patience of our farmers has its limits and that these limits have been reached". Farmers were ready to demonstrate their "bitterness, disappointment and anger in full force".

## Danish MPs reject co-operation on Star Wars

From Christopher Follett, Copenhagen

The Danish Parliament yesterday voted against Danish involvement in any form of co-operation in research connected with the US "star wars" strategy. After a long parliamentary debate, a motion put forward by the Opposition Social Democrats against Danish involve-

ment was passed by 64 votes to four with 50 abstentions.

● LONDON: Britain remains sceptical about the French Eureka proposal to co-ordinate European scientific research to counter American dominance over high technology (Henry Stanhope writes).

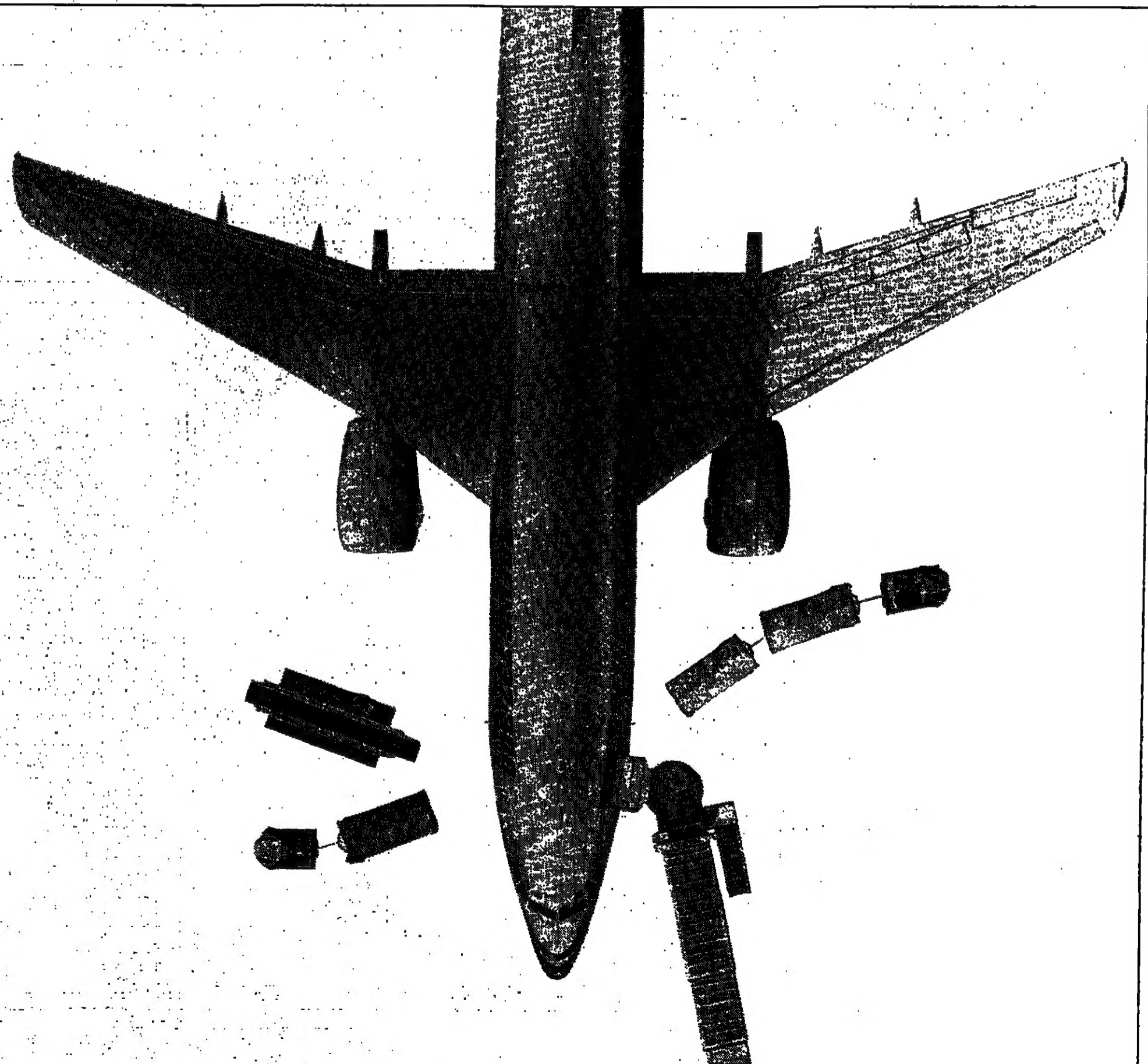
This is despite a visit here last week by a high-powered

French team, including representatives from the Elysée Palace.

They were met by an equally high-level group of Whitehall officials from the Foreign Office, Cabinet Office, Ministry of Defence, Department of Education and Science and Science and Engineering Research Council.

The confidential session was said to be very much an exploratory one and is expected to be followed by more talks.

Sources discount suggestions that Eureka is a French reply to President Reagan's "Star Wars". The French are taking the view that participation in SDI does not exclude co-operation in Eureka.



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## Doubts cast on A-test evidence

From Tony Duboudin, Melbourne

An eminent Australian nuclear physicist has cast doubts on much of the evidence given to the Royal Commission investigating British nuclear tests in Australia.

Professor Sir Ernest Titterton, the official Australian Government observer at the British tests in the 1950s, told the Royal Commission yesterday that he did not believe earlier evidence that it was not always possible to clear the test site of local Aborigines.

Sir Ernest said after the hearing that even if it was true people in the irradiated areas would not have suffered. "What has happened has been that the measurements that were made at the time have been reassessed, and they are quite real; they are far below the levels at which there could be any real danger to the population, even though there have been minor changes to what is now considered to be proper for the whole population of the country."

Asked if the tests would have been conducted very differently if they were conducted today, Sir Ernest said there would have been small differences. "That's not a criticism of the tests, it's just that it's now 1985 instead of 1952."

He denied the tests were carried out in an unsophisticated way. "They were carried out at a very high level of sophistication, but it was a level of sophistication applicable to the time and the technology that was available."

## González may ignore Nato vote

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Government would ignore a referendum verdict in favour of quitting Nato if there was a low turnout. Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, has indicated.

He revealed this new position to Spanish journalists accompanying him on Monday as he flew to Sweden for an official visit.

He did not say precisely what the turnout would have to be, but suggested over 50 per cent.

This would counter the probable abstention by supporters of Señor Manuel Fraga, the Opposition Leader, who, while wanting Spain to integrate fully into Nato, has till now refused, for party reasons, to come to the aid of the Government by recommending a "yes" vote in the referendum.

Señor González, during President Reagan's visit last week, promised that Spain would remain a member of Nato. The Prime Minister now thinks that, with EEC membership a near certainty, many Spaniards might resolve their uncertainties about Nato simply by staying away from the referendum.

The Government has promised to consult the people next spring. Señor González also said that if there was doubt about the outcome, the Government would propose resolving the issue at the general election due later next year. Those determined to get Spain out of Nato could always vote for the Communists or other tiny left-wing groups.

## Giscard blocks Bokassa

Paris (AFP) - The former French President Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has won a court action to halt publication of a book by the deposed Central African ruler, Jean-Bédel Bokassa, who was overthrown in a French-backed coup.

A Paris court yesterday upheld a civil action by M Giscard d'Estaing seeking to expurgate passages from the book.

The book, entitled *Ma Vérité* (My Truth), was to have been released by the Carrère publishing company here.



## Police torture alleged after Indian bomb suspect dies

Delhi (Reuters) - A key suspect in the recent spate of Indian bombings has died in police custody, leading to allegations in several Indian newspapers yesterday that he was tortured.

The Press Trust of India said Mohinder Singh Khalsi died in a Delhi hospital on Monday afternoon after being injured in a scuffle with police who arrested him on Sunday. The agency gave no other details, but said a magistrate had been ordered to conduct an inquest into his death.

Singh was one of three Sikh suspects arrested by police after bomb attacks on Friday and Saturday which killed at least 86 people.

The *Indian Express* said he suffered only minor injuries in the scuffle during his arrest. He was able to walk after treatment at Lohia hospital in Delhi on the day of his arrest, it said.

The newspaper quoted hospital reports as saying Singh had bruised eyes and serious injuries all over his body. "The suspect was apparently tortured to death," the paper said. It added that the two other suspects arrested with Singh came to court in "an apparently critical condition".

"Most doctors at Lohia hospital were convinced that Mohinder Singh had died due to police torture," the *Statesman* newspaper said.

Police, meanwhile, said they recovered enough explosives to make 400 transistor bombs

from the Delhi home of one of the suspects, a Sikh lawyer. They also found lead casings, wires and batteries needed to make booby-trap bombs in the house.

"This kind of ammunition in the hands of the terrorists could have made a Beirut out of Delhi," the *Indian Express* quoted one police officer as saying.

The weekend bomb attacks in Delhi were mostly booby-trapped transistors which exploded when picked up by passersby.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, decided yesterday to go ahead with a visit to the United States despite demands in Parliament to cancel the trip because of a Sikh extremist plot to kill him there.

In Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said five Sikhs had been arrested and two more were being sought on charges of planning to kill Mr Gandhi during his US visit from June 12 to 15. Officials said the Sikhs also planned widespread guerrilla attacks in India to overthrow the Delhi Government.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said later that India was grateful to the US for promptly uncovering the plot to kill Mr Gandhi. "We note with satisfaction that legal processes have been started against the arrested persons," the spokesman said.

Rajiv's India, page 9

## Russians accused of killing villagers

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

As many as 1,000 villagers have been killed by Soviet armed forces in eastern Afghanistan, according to Western diplomats reporting in Delhi yesterday.

The diplomats said they had late confirmation of a big Soviet push in Laghman province in mid-March, which involved a sweep through 12 villages. In each of them about 100 people were killed. Dead bodies were left littering the ruins, and houses were looted and burned. Survivors set up a tented encampment at Surkhakhan, the diplomats said.

The villages involved are in the southern Khargha district of the province and straddle the Kabul and Surkha rivers across the Jalalabad Road.

Three members of the Central Committee of the Afghan ruling party were in Jalalabad as the operation was about to start, diplomats said. One had asked the Soviet commander if Afghan troops could be included in the sweep, hoping thereby to diminish the risk of a massacre. The Russian general in charge had refused.

Later, the surviving villagers complained to the committee members about the massacres.

and were told it was a punishment for the help they were supplying to Mujahidin guerrillas. They were, however, given permission to revisit their homes to bury the dead.

Though the Mujahidin were successfully swept out of the area, a key route from the Pakistan border to Kabul, they soon returned, the diplomats said, and a second operation was carried out a week later, when many civilians were again killed.

● ISLAMABAD: The Soviet Ambassador here said that Pakistani troops were involved in an Afghan guerrilla arms depot explosion that killed two dozen Soviet and Afghan soldiers being held prisoner there (Reuters reports).

Mr Vitaly Smirnov, who delivered a protest note to President Zia ul-Haq on Saturday, said the incident illustrated what he described as Pakistan's growing role in the guerrillas' fight against the Kabul Government. Afghan and Pakistani sources said the captured soldiers seized the arms depot in a guerrilla training centre 15 miles south of Peshawar to demand political asylum in the West.

## Nimeiry laws to be revised

From Gill Lusk, Khartoum

Police would be brought to trial, many leading figures remain at liberty. In the absence of an Attorney General no legal steps had been taken, and both the appointment and the statement will go some way towards reassuring both trade union and public opinion, which continue to voice doubts about Government intentions on this deeply felt issue.

Meanwhile, riot police reappeared in Khartoum on Saturday when crowds took to the streets in response to a Muslim Brotherhood demonstration demanding the reiteration of Shariya (Islamic) law. Hundreds of Muslim Brothers and Sisters, including small children, were bused into town for the march, which degenerated into a riot of stone-throwing.

The statement by Mr Omer, who was appointed only on Friday, is one of the strongest yet from a Government not so far noted for its strong policy statements. Though both the Cabinet and the ruling Transitional Military Council have frequently said that former Nimeiry stalwarts and secret

Nimeiry's main supporter in his last months, has been allowed full rein since his overthrow, on the widely supported premise that with the new freedom of speech and assembly, the group can only dig its own grave.

The new-found freedom has precipitated a rash of delegations of many hues, both domestic and foreign. Many observers attribute the shortage of political and economic policy decisions to these time-consuming consultations. "They're trying to please everybody, and you can't," said one Western diplomat.

But the consensus in Khartoum is that, after years of dictatorship, you can and you must. "We've kept quiet for 16 years: now we have to talk," said one professional person, summing up the general feeling despite the urgency of Sudan's food supply.

The Brotherhood, General



Final journey: Family, friends and union members giving the black power salute yesterday as Mr Raditsela's body is taken to the cemetery

## Strike call fails as blacks bury union chief

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

About 10,000 people gathered in the black township of Tsakane on the East Rand yesterday to bury Mr Andries Raditsela, the trade union official who died on May 6 from head injuries after being in police custody.

The vast majority of black workers in the Transvaal, however, did not observe a call by trade union leaders to take the day off to attend the funeral. A spokesman for the Associated Chambers

of Commerce estimated that 90 per cent of the black labour force reported for work as usual.

There also appeared to have been a very limited response from blacks elsewhere in the country to a suggestion that they should stop work for two hours in the middle of the day. In some cases workers were granted extended lunch breaks so that they could attend commemorative prayer meetings.

Most employers had made clear that they would dock the pay of workers who

absented themselves, and this appears to have been the main reason for the poor response to the stayaway call at a time of high unemployment and recession.

A spokesman for Anglo American, South Africa's biggest mining house, reported isolated incidents of miners' sympathy for the funeral. The funeral of Mr Raditsela took place in the Methodist church in Tsakane, 25 miles east of Johannesburg.

Early yesterday three bombs went off

in the "white" town of Brakpan near by, at the police station, the magistrates' court and the commissioner's court, which handles offences against the hated "pass laws" which control the movement of blacks out side the tribal reserves. No one was injured.

● GABORONE: A car bomb yesterday killed a South African political refugee here. Botswana police said (Reuters reports). They declined to name the victim, saying only that he lived near the scene of the explosion.

## Berri hints Gemayel should go

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

With no prospect of an immediate summit between President Gemayel of Lebanon and President Assad of Syria Muslim leaders in Beirut are again suggesting that Mr Gemayel might have to resign his office and that the Lebanese national covenant under which Christians always hold the presidency - might have to be changed.

Mr Nabih Berri, the Shia Muslim Amal leader, who is also a member of Mr Gemayel's broken Cabinet, has said that after the military defeats suffered by the Christian Phalangists, "there is a big chance now, especially for the people, to change many things in Lebanon".

"I am fighting for a new Lebanon and I think Syria is supposed to help us. The suspicion that Mr Gemayel is trying to preserve the power of the Phalangists is widely held in west Beirut, where the new Phalangist leader Mr Elie Hobeika, is being reviled as a murderer. The Phalangist militiamen in the Sabra and Chatila Palestinian camps during the 1982 massacre. Syria's silence suggests that President Assad is not going to accept Mr Hobeika.

If this is the case, then Syria is likely to permit the Muslim militias to continue their battles against the Christians in Beirut until the Phalangists "come to heel" and accept Syrian tutelage.

## Fleeing aliens 'shot in Nigeria'

Cotonou, Benin (AFP) -

Twenty-five illegal immigrants to Nigeria died on Monday when troops opened fire as they tried to break through the country's border with Benin, an informed source said yesterday.

The source said 15 people died when Nigerian troops fired at their vehicles at Seme, a border crossing west of Lagos, and 10 other people were trampled to death or suffocated in the crowd. Witnesses said the toll could be much higher as bodies remained in several vehicles blocked at the border.

Officials in Lagos denied the report, saying it contained "no truth whatsoever". The reported violence took place after about 25,000 of the illegal immigrants broke out of the camp at Ijebu, near Lagos airport and headed for the border in 400 vehicles.

Nigeria closed its land borders on Friday, after a one-week opening aimed at allowing

about 700,000 evicted aliens, including an estimated 300,000 Ghanaians, to depart. However, many of the immigrants were unable to complete in the time the formalities to leave, which included searches by Nigerian officials for illicit goods. The remaining aliens were taken to Ijebu pending repatriation by sea.

There was violence at the camp on Monday before the detained aliens made a break for the border. Many of them had reportedly not eaten for several days and were desperate to be allowed to return home.

Some refugees who succeeded on crossing the border into Benin said they had been robbed of their possessions by Nigerian troops, and others said young Ghanaian women had been raped by the soldiers.

● LAGOS: Illegal immigrants ordered out of Nigeria but stranded when land borders

## Fingerprints irk Japan's foreigners

From David Watts, Tokyo

A cosmetic change in Japan's fingerprinting of foreign residents has done nothing to stem the tide of protest against the procedure.

Under a change of rules, foreigners will use a dab of colourless chemical to record an index fingerprint on their alien registration cards rather than using ink and rotating the finger through 180 degrees.

The modification, approved by the Cabinet yesterday at the suggestion of the Justice Ministry, prompted immediate protests from the Korean residents' association, local government workers and Mr Saburo Ito, the Mayor of Kawasaki and leader of one of 43 local authorities which refuse to index foreigners who refuse fingerprinting.

For years foreigners resident in Japan have been campaigning against a system which they say not only violates their human rights but also treats them as though they are criminals. Most affected are the more than 600,000 Koreans who live in Japan, many of whom were born here but all of whom must carry identity cards bearing their fingerprints.

Yesterday's announcement can only spur on a campaign in South Korea to complete a one million name petition calling for the abolition of fingerprinting.

When President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea paid a visit last autumn he called on the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, to abolish the system.

Once the new measures come into force on July 1 there will be a three-month grace period to allow refusals to comply after which the Government will not only prosecute but also stop issuing alien registration cards to foreigners refusing to be fingerprinted.

The Government is clearly trying to head off mass civil disobedience during the summer when 370,000 foreigners are due to renew their registration cards. It remains to be seen whether the hard line pays off.

## Seveso five win their appeals

Milano (AP) - A Milan court of appeals, overturning the sentences by a lower court yesterday acquitted all five defendants of the most severe charges - negligence and malicious failure to take safety measures - in connection with the 1976 Dioxin leakage disaster in Seveso.

The court convicted two of the five defendants, Jago Antonio Sambeth and Herwig von Zwibel, both West Germans - of negligence and sentenced them to suspended prison terms.

At the time of the incident Herr von Zwibel was the technical director of Icmesa, the chemical company based in Seveso. Sambeth was a technical director of Givaudan, the Swiss parent company of Icmesa.

The appeals court, after several hours of deliberations, dropped all charges against Mr Guy Waldvogel, the Swiss chairman of Icmesa, Mr Fritz Mörli, Swiss head of planning of the firm, and Signor Giovanni Radice, the Italian technical director of Icmesa.

## Doctor on murder charge

Los Angeles - A doctor here has been charged with attempted murder after he allegedly turned off the life support equipment for a brain-damaged patient (Ivor Davis writes).

The district attorney alleges that John Frederick Kappler, aged 55, turned off a

respirator used to keep Ben Wyewa, aged 28, alive in the hospital's intensive care unit. Mr Wyewa, an electrician, has been unconscious since attempting suicide last January.

Police say witnesses saw the doctor entering and leaving Mr Wyewa's room at the time the respirator was turned off. A nurse quickly reconnected it.

## 'Mountain man' found guilty of kidnapping

New York - One of the "mountain men" involved in the abduction of a young woman in Montana has been found guilty of kidnapping. His sentence is to be decided (Trevor Fishlock writes).

Daniel Nichols, aged 20, and his father Donald, aged 54, were fugitives in the Rocky Mountains for five months last year after the kidnapping of Miss Karl Swenson and a shooting in which a would-be rescuer was killed. At his trial in Virginia City, Montana, Daniel Nichols was acquitted of murdering the rescuer after his father, on the witness stand, admitted the killing.

The Nichols men seized Miss Swenson, aged 23, as she was on a training run and took her to their camp in a forest. The court heard that they intended to live a "mountain man" existence and wanted her as a mate for Daniel.

## Flogging delay

Karachi (Reuters) - Irate protests by women have forced authorities to delay the public flogging of a woman here for adultery under Islamic law. She and her lover, both Christians, were sentenced to 10 lashes and five years' hard labour.

## Karpov plea

Tunis (Reuters) - The world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, has asked for his controversial title match against Gary Kasparov to be replayed in Moscow. Marseille, London and Moscow have all offered to organize the rematch, due to begin in September.

## Public hanging

Damascus (AP) - Three Syrians convicted of spying for Israel were hanged in Damascus at Dawn. Their bodies were left dangling from the gallows for three hours.

## UN choice

New York (Reuters) - An Italian diplomat, Signor Giorgio Giacomelli, was named the new Commissioner General of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

## Long sentence

Barcelona (Reuters) - A court here sentenced a man to 592 years' imprisonment on 40 counts of rape, two attempted rapes and seven indecent assaults.

## Footing the bill

Gibraltar - Pensions for Spanish workers withdrawn from Gibraltar by General Franco in 1969 will cost about £6 million which the colony's government cannot afford. Gibraltar's Deputy Chief Minister, Mr Adolfo Canepa, said: "Britain will have to foot the bill."

## Jail escape

Bogota (AFP) - Three men who took part in the 1983 kidnapping of the brother of President Betancur of Colombia escaped from prison here after blowing a hole in the wall with dynamite. A fourth escapee was wounded and recaptured.

## Easy landing

Lima (AFP) - A man who jumped from the sixteenth floor of a building in central Lima after a row with his girlfriend ended up with only broken arm and leg and no other serious injury after landing on the roof of a car.

## Colombia battle

Call, Colombia (AP) - Left wing guerrillas using shoulder-launched rockets brought down an army helicopter in heavy fighting over the weekend near Buga that left 33 dead, the Defence Ministry said. The clash was the fiercest since the truce agreed last year.

## Correction

Allan Octavian Hume was the founder and first general secretary of the Indian National Congress, not the first president, as reported from Delhi on May 4.



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150 من الاموال



## Amtrak ushers in age of the train after escaping Reagan axe

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

America's inter-city train system has been saved from overnight obliteration. Had the White House got its way, the entire Amtrak long-distance passenger service would have ceased operations on September 30, probably for good.

The proposal was one of the more stunning measures advocated by President Reagan in his budget. The Senate has thrown it out after an enormous campaign of opposition from rural America and the chronically congested north-east.

Mr Reagan's plan was all the more astonishing because there would have been no phased closure, no time for an orderly demise of a once great system already enmeshed in the motor car. Amtrak would have received not a penny more in life-saving subsidies.

The Senate decided to continue Amtrak's annual subsidy of \$684 million (£570 million) for the financial year beginning October 1, but to reduce it by increments to almost half that by 1988. Amtrak will survive. It is leaner, fitter and increasingly competitive with airlines. On the New York-Washington link,

for example, it carries a remarkable 18,000 people daily, far more than the airlines.

President Reagan and others argued that the long-distance American railroad was an expensive anachronism. Only 15 years ago America had only 450 inter-city trains and 100 of those were in the process of being discontinued. Some great romantic names disappeared: the Denver and Rio Grande, Western, the Rock Island, the Southern.

Amtrak came into being in 1971. Now it is the only inter-city rail passenger carrier in the country. Trains have made an astonishing comeback. After years of anguish, Amtrak has made the train a feasible long-distance option once more.

In rural America the impact of President Reagan's plan would have been staggering. In some areas there is not an airport or bus route for several hundred miles. In the north-east, the very thought of millions more travellers jacking the overcrowded airports and highways sent shudders through the region. Amtrak argued convincingly that billions of dollars would need to

be invested in airport and highway construction.

That message was all the more convincing to congressmen who see a national airport in Washington, so absurdly overcrowded that local radio stations frequently announce: "Do not drive to National Airport. No more parking spaces will be available today."

Amtrak's subsidies amount to \$34 each year for every passenger. Critics argued that this was a waste of money. But the evidence to Amtrak's management suggests that by 1986 at least 60 per cent of costs would be met through revenues.

Amtrak has, finally, a clear objective after arguments between those who wanted 150 mph "trains of the future" and those who called for restoration of "great long-distance" "name trains" of the past. Nobody advocated that it should be a commuter service. It has become an increasingly attractive compromise, neither especially fast nor particularly glamorous. But it is steadily building a sound and reliable reputation. It looks as though it will be around for quite a time.

## Catching up with the front-runners of Asia

Michael Hamlyn reports from Delhi. In this second of two articles, on the Indian Government's economic policies.

A drive down the narrow strip of tarmac that marks one of India's principal highways illuminates a number of the economic problems the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, contemplates as he considers the effects of his first six months in office.

At each border, moving from the Delhi territory into Uttar Pradesh, or from Uttar Pradesh into Rajasthan, or even from one district to another within one of the states, a barrier is placed across the road. On each side of it long queues of lorries form,

their drivers and their helpers waiting in the shade of the vehicles smoking Biris (Indian gaspers made of a rolled up leaf with a shaking of tobacco inside).

This is an octal post where the local authorities collect taxes on all forms of merchandise that pass across the border. It is essentially the same system of taxation that our school history books told us caused the French Revolution. It takes time to collect or avoid, and it adds to the cost of everything.

A little further down the road a line of emerging cars, soft-foot it along, pulling carts laden with merchandise for the bazaar of Delhi. "No country that still uses camels for delivering its goods is going to take the place of Japan or Taiwan or South Korea or Singapore," a cynical observer said.

But catching up with the economic front-runners of Asia is exactly the task that Mr



Into the future: An engineer checks fuel rod gauges on an Indian nuclear reactor - but, out on the roads, camels are still used to transport goods.

Gandhi has set himself. It is a task which, at first impression, seems to have embarked on well. Indeed this is the area of government in which he appears to be making the greatest change from the policies he inherited from his mother, the assassinated Mrs Indira Gandhi.

In substance, Mrs Gandhi was, however, already moving along a similar path. Since the death of her younger son Sanjay, she had been able to make more sensible appointments of senior civil servants and ministers, and they and she

began the process of liberalization of trade and industry which her older son Rajiv has now taken up so enthusiastically.

You were never quite certain with his mother, who didn't really understand economics," a trade expert said, "whether or not a bad monsoon would cause her to move to some rubbishy populist policy."

But Mr Gandhi and his ministers have made it clear that his policies are here to stay; and so far the policies he is enacting, the changes that he is making in the industrial

and taxation structure of the country, are winning nothing but praise from Western observers.

Though there are those who would wish him to move faster, there are also those who fear that if he opens Indian industry too far to the chill winds of external competition he might end up by killing it instead of curing its ills of inefficiency, and lack of productivity, salesmanship, or dynamism.

Observers have praised in particular two realistic appointments - Mr V. P. Singh as Finance Minister, and Mr Man

Mohan Singh as head of the Planning Commission. The budget produced by Mr V. P. Singh has won praise from the middle classes and industrialists, though the ensuing increase in the cost of daily produce has aroused warnings that it may not be sweetness and light in the future.

The Government's action in liberalizing monopolies and restrictive regulations so that they apply only to companies above \$65 million instead of \$13 million, has won praise.

"He has evidently got the message that big does not necessarily mean bad," said a banker.

Manufacturing licences have been simplified so that if you have permission to make a thousand egg-timers you may now make a trillion. They have been broad-banded so that if you make lorries you can make anything on four wheels - tractors, vans or domestic cars. One-window techniques have been introduced to prevent the constant trailing from office to office in search of an appropriate approval signature.

Customs duties have been reduced on a swathe of electronic and computer goods.

There are still bottlenecks and drawbacks in the Indian system. Managerial talent is in short supply. And there is still a long way to go before the tax structure can be so reorganized that the octroi can disappear and the transport system speeded up so that the camel becomes redundant.

Mr Gandhi's reforming programme on which he has scarcely embarked will take years to produce its full effect. Well-wishers hope that the cost-of-living protests, or the agitation from inefficient industries thrown out of business by more dynamic competition will not unsaddle him.

"He deserves a good monsoon this year, he really does," said a western diplomat.

Concluded

## Favours for 'graduate mums' end

Singapore (Reuters) - Singapore announced yesterday it would end a policy giving priority school admission for children of graduate mothers as part of a scheme to increase the island's talents pool.

The Minister of Education, Mr Tony Tan, told Parliament that the Cabinet had accepted his recommendation to drop the "graduate mum" policy which had created a public uproar. The policy, initiated by the Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, was generally blamed for a drastic reduction in the share of votes for the ruling People's Action Party at the elections last December.

Mr Lee had wanted the scheme as an incentive to graduate mothers to produce more children. He said less educated Singapore women were producing double the number of children of university graduates.

## Salvador rebels in peace initiative

From John Carlin, Mexico City

After weeks of rumour and speculation surrounding the time and venue of the long-awaited third round of peace talks in El Salvador, the rebels have taken the initiative and put forward a concrete proposal.

At a news conference here on Monday, a senior member of a Salvadoran guerrilla delegation said a letter had been sent to President Jose Napoleon Duarte proposing a preliminary, private meeting between rebel and Government representatives in San Salvador on May 30 and 31. This should then be followed by top-level peace talks on June 15 in the town of Pereren, a guerrilla stronghold in the north-east of the country.

The delegation is headed by Dr Guillermo Ungo, the president of the guerrillas' political wing, the Democratic Revolutionary Front. Dr Ungo, a quiet, scholarly man in a suit

and tie, accused President Duarte of irresponsibility in suggesting recently that an agreement had already been reached for a third meeting.

Aware of the urgency among most Salvadorans for a peaceful solution to the civil war, Dr Ungo said El Salvador's American-backed Government should not treat the dialogue as "a game" but as something "important and necessary".

However, in private conversations in the past month, both rebel and Government representatives have indicated that divisions are too wide for much progress to be made through dialogue.

A Salvadoran guerrilla leader interviewed earlier this month in Cuba acknowledged that the best possible result of another meeting would be simply to ensure the channels of communication between the two sides are kept open.

## Contra base sealed off as Hondurans flee fighting

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Many people have fled their homes in Honduras near the border with Nicaragua to escape fighting between Nicaraguan troops and anti-Sandinista Contras.

The Honduran Army, which has been drawn into the fighting, has sealed the entire area surrounding the main Contra base camp at the village of Las Vegas, about five miles inside Honduran territory.

Peasants leaving the sealed area say all the villages inside have been abandoned with the exception of Trojes where relief

operations have been set up. The Red Cross says about 800 are in their care, but the Mayor of Trojes told one correspondent who managed to get beyond the checkpoint that the number was twice as high.

A Honduran newspaper said people had also fled other border areas.

There are no reliable reports of the number of Nicaraguan troops and rebels killed in the latest fighting but refugees from the village of Arenales, the last hamlet before the Las Vegas camp, said they had seen flocks

of vultures circling in the sky. The Honduran Army mobilized reinforcements to the border last week, accusing Sandinista troops of having crossed into Honduras in pursuit of Contras.

● PARIS: The US trade embargo against Nicaragua is doomed to fail because it lacks international support, President Daniel Ortega has forecast after talks with French leaders (Reuters reports).

"The embargo is damaging the Nicaraguan economy in the short term, it is damaging the

health and life of the Nicaraguan people", Señor Ortega told a news conference here.

"But from the moment the US embargo lacked international support it was condemned to fail."

"We found in President Mitterrand a disposition to strive towards peace in Central America, and... a willingness to step up efforts to promote economic co-operation with Nicaragua at a moment when this increased US aggression is being declared in the economic field."

## Chinese give up making presents of giant pandas

Peking. - China has announced that it will no longer present giant pandas to other countries as a token of its friendship (Mary Lee writes).

The announcement, in an article in the latest edition of the official Peking Review said this move is to help save the giant panda from extinction since it is threatened with starvation in its natural habitat in central China. China has given 23 giant pandas to nine countries.

# Why fly over America's biggest attraction when you can stop over?

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### Start at the top - downtown

New York is a big place. So, if you're unsure about where to begin, this ad will help you get started.

Starting downtown - at the World Trade Center, with a

bird's-eye view of the entire New York/New Jersey area. In just 58 seconds, an amazing elevator will whisk you to the top of the tallest twin towers in the world. (Admission is \$2.45, \$1.25 for children under 12.) From the open air promenade, above the 110th floor, you'll enjoy a breathtaking view at a quarter of a mile high.

If you get hungry, the World Trade Center has twelve restaurants to choose from. Including the *Hors d'Oeuvres at Windows on the World*, serving drinks.

and the same great view. Live music and dancing start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are required.



### A taste of the world

Why, in downtown Manhattan alone, there's a whole world of international cuisines. Walk over to the historic South Street Seaport for a hunch of fresh seafood. Or, here's another idea: take a trip to Mott Street in Chinatown - and indulge in heaping platters of steaming Oriental specialties for less than \$12 a person.

Afterwards, stroll over a few blocks to Little Italy for appetizers, cannoli, and cappuccino, for dessert.

And if that doesn't appeal to you, there's a whole city of cuisines to explore. From Mexican, Tibetan, and Japanese. To Creole, Portuguese, Russian, and Scandinavian - even American.



### Symbol of a city

New York City is famous for its many skyscrapers - but perhaps most famous for the Empire State Building. Once the tallest building in the world, it still remains a beacon of "the city of dreams." The Observation Deck opens every day at 9:30 a.m. and closes at 11:00 p.m. Admission is just \$2.25 - \$1.25 for children under 12. Try to get there early.

### Shop your way uptown

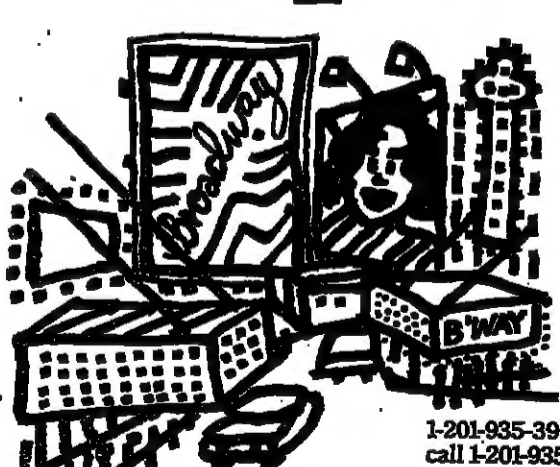
A block or two west of the Empire State Building are two of New York's most famous stores: Macy's and Gimbel's. Stop in.

Then take a stroll up Fifth Avenue, past the classic windows of B. Altman and Lord & Taylor (Up at 42nd Street, say hello to Patience and Fortitude - the famous lions that guard the New York Public Library).

Saks Fifth Avenue is at 49th Street - just across from Rockefeller Center, where you can catch your breath and maybe some lunch - surrounded by lush gardens and glittering skyscrapers. Farther uptown are Cartier, Gucci, Steubel Glass, Tiffany's - and Bergdorf Goodman, just across from Central Park, where horse-drawn carriages stand ready for hire.

### The stars on Broadway

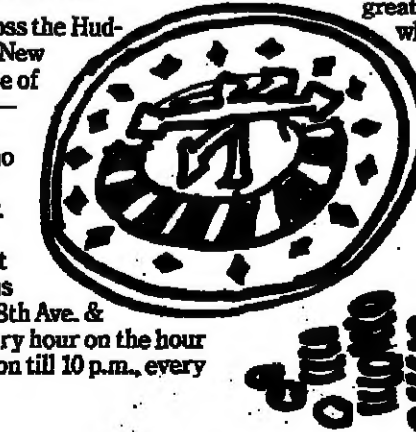
A trip to New York wouldn't be complete without taking in a Broadway show. Purchase tickets at the box office or through ticket



brokers in the Times Square Area. Or, on the day of the performance, you can get half-price tickets at the TKTS office, at 46th & Broadway. It opens at 3:00 p.m. daily for evening performances, noon for matinees - but get there an hour earlier for best choice of shows.

### New Jersey's winning entertainment

Right across the Hudson River, is New Jersey - home of Atlantic City - America's newest casino city. Getting there is easy. Buses leave from the Port Authority Bus Terminal (at 8th Ave. & 42nd St.) every hour on the hour - from 12 noon till 10 p.m., every



### Well worth the stop

Stopping over in the New York/New Jersey area is a lot more affordable than you think. There are comfortable hotels in every price range. Uptown, downtown, all over town. Near the lights of Broadway or Atlantic City. Your travel agent can book them for you.

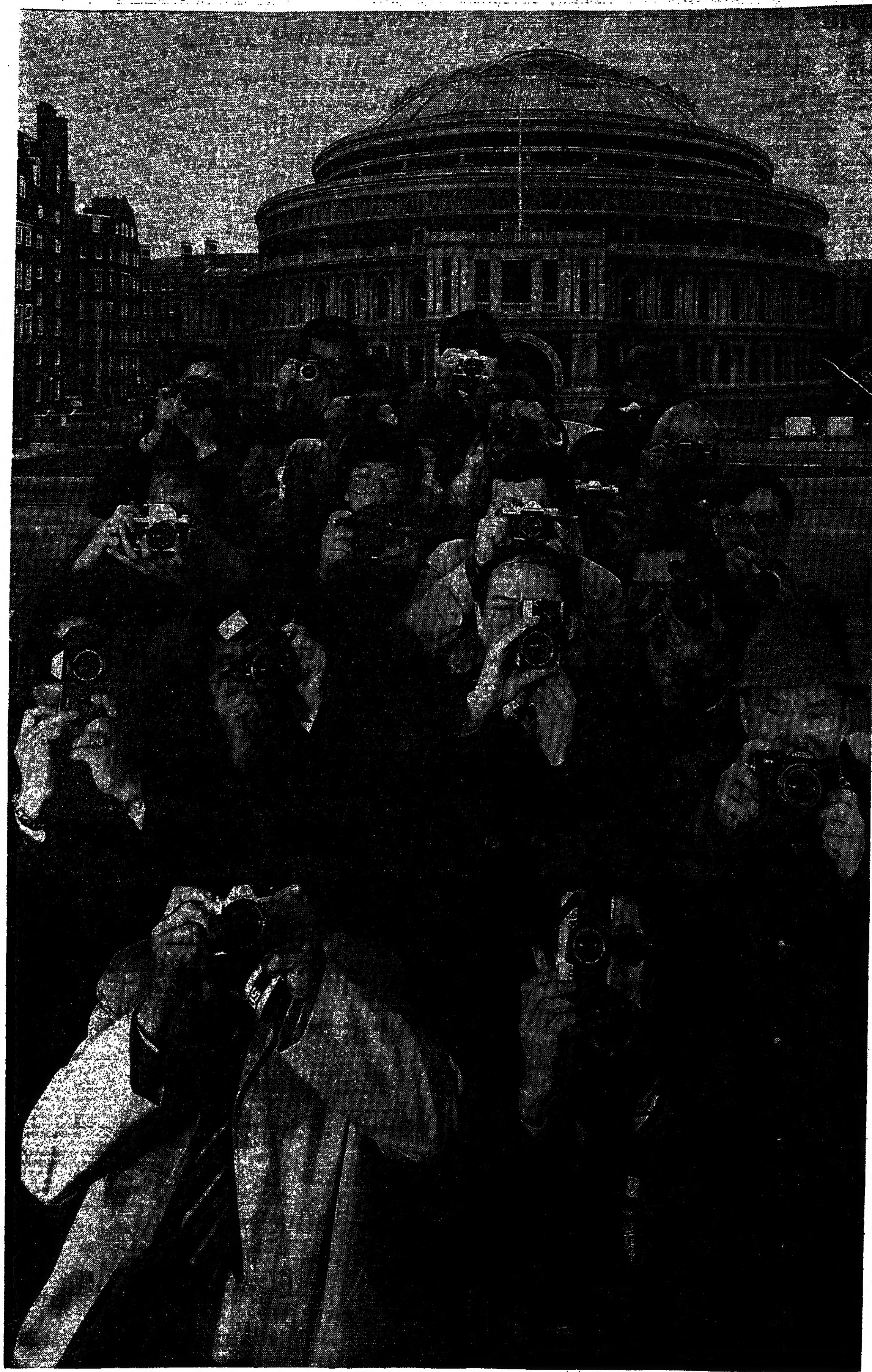
So why fly over America's greatest attraction when it's so easy to stop over? Ask your travel agent about low-cost tours and stop-over packages that start in the New York/New Jersey area. Then come stop over!

All prices based on rate of exchange at time of printing.

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Pilkington produces almost one fifth of all the ophthalmic lenses in the western world and though ophthalmics represents only a fraction of the Group's output (about one twentieth) it's a market which is rapidly growing.

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## SPECTRUM

Pearce Wright, Science Editor, on the failure of western technology to help a hungry land

## Will Africa ever feed itself?

The immediate causes of starvation in Africa have been well publicized. But the fundamental problems lie much deeper, in the pernicious politics of agriculture

The devastating famine striking the African countries from Mauritania to Ethiopia began in the 1960s. It is not a human creation but its consequences have been aggravated by man's activity.

World attention has focused on emergency food and medical relief to staunch the agony. But the eminent crop geneticist and one of the pioneers of Asia's Green Revolution in the 1960s, Dr Monokombu Swaminathan, says that environmental problems linking drought and famine have virtually been ignored.

Dr Swaminathan, director-general of the International Rice Research Institute, adds: "Africa's problems have less to do with drought than with the fact that it cannot feed itself whatever the weather. This comes from impoverishment of its soil, from low yielding crops, from poor prices paid to farmers for what they produce, and because crippling environmental damage has already been inflicted."

The sub-Saharan drought of the past 15 years is the worst in 150 years. The last two years have been the driest in the century.

A study of the rainfall changes in the central Sudan by A. Trisack of Durham University and M. Hulme of University College, Swansea, covering records over more than a century, shows distinct wet and dry sequences. The present calamity has its origins, weather wise, in a drought that began innocently enough at the end of the 1930s, when nearly a decade of unusually wet conditions ended.

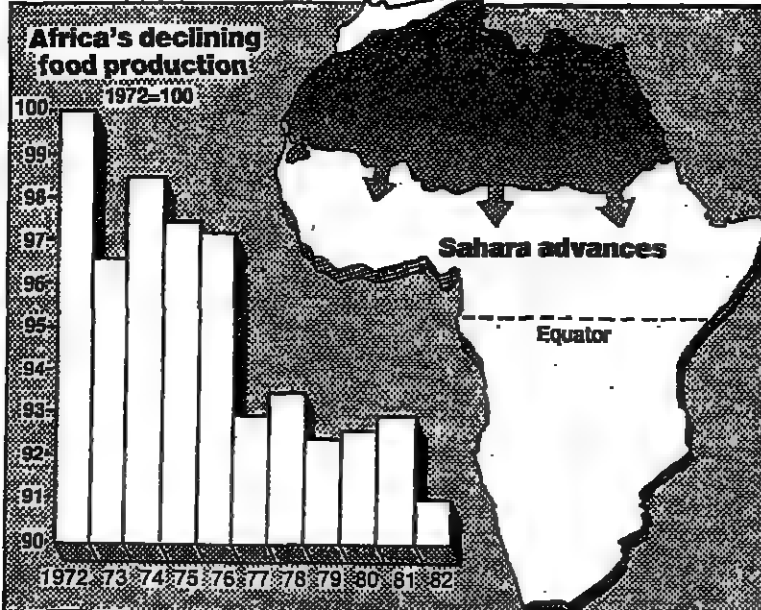
A five-year span of drought peaked in 1972. The devastation in West Africa was brought to public attention and then forgotten. Some climatologists thought that by 1975 the drought might be over, but another drought peak was reached in 1977. Rainfall thereafter failed to reach a level regarded as normal after 1977 and another relentless annual decline set in.

The looming catastrophe went unrecognized outside Africa. In 1983 and 1984 the drought had become far more intense and extensive than in 1972 and 1977. Perched lands stretched more than 3,000 miles in an unbroken band across the country, embracing an area twice the size of the United States.

Eventually the outside world was shocked into awareness that a disaster was happening. The alert should have been raised long before. In Niger in 1920, farmers were reaping an average 300 kilograms of cereal per hectare. Even by 1978 it was only 350 kilograms - but the only formal way of signalling that food shortages and, hence, famine



Water: Costly wells provide year-round supplies



Food: how production per head has shrunk since 1972



Fuel: Scarce firewood is hauled by camel



Soil: Herds have eaten or trampled vegetation at this Sudan oasis (left); precious Ethiopian earth erodes because terraces do not trap water



was building up was by ferreting through the statistics of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Yet daily satellite observations on weather are made of all parts of the earth. Likewise there is economic data on food prices country-by-country and the levels of stocks, particularly in those known to be famine-prone. The health information gathered for the World Health Organization about patterns of illness and the rate of growth and general appearance of children could, and should, form the basis for an early warning system. If computer and information technology has any social relevance then this would be a classic case to demonstrate the fact.

Reaching agricultural self-sufficiency in Africa is a daunting aim. Tasks include major improvement in soil and water management; more research in high-yielding crops suitable for African soils and climate; achieving greater herd health and breeding of multi-purpose livestock; development of agricultural-related industries like canning; use of communications, and broadcasting in particular, for teaching repair of equipment, how to use new seed stocks and how to improve soil fertility; and the development of renewable energy sources. There is immense experi-

ence to be drawn from the initiatives that made the Green Revolution. The enterprise shown in 1965 and 1966 by the Indian Government turned around a massive food production deficit in 20 years - and the process withstood a drought equal to that now being felt in Africa. India doubled its wheat crop in one six-year period, a feat unmatched by any other large country.

The term Green Revolution was adopted to describe the development and spread through many of the developing countries of high-yield "dwarf" strains of wheat and rice.

One of the chief criticisms of the Green Revolution is that it mainly benefited large landowners. Yet the original dwarf germplasm, for both wheat and rice, is ideal for the smallholder. They come from Japan where they had been established over centuries on farms that are among the world's smallest. Since the reason the large landowner benefits from the new seeds has nothing to do with plant biology, the challenge is to make better crops widely available. This depends on forming an effective rural credit infrastructure.

The Food and Agricultural Orga-

nization reported to the United Nations this year that 24 of Africa's 43 countries were in grave distress and urgently needed food. An effort began last month to raise an additional \$1.500 million for relief aid.

Food production in the countries of the Sahel region has been in decline for years. The pattern of agricultural development has been pushed in favour of cash crops for exports.

In Mali, between 1967 and 1972, while food production floundered during yet another drought, cotton production increased four-fold and peanut production grew by 70 per cent. Similarly, Upper Volta's cotton harvest increased from 2,000 tons a year in 1960 to 75,000 tons last year.

Again, in Chad, where drought and war have contributed to appalling food shortages, a record cotton crop was harvested last year. It happens that cotton is a drought resistant plant, but the main attraction for harvesting cotton is that prices have risen by 10 per cent annually in recent years thus enticing two million farmers to turn away from sorghum and millet - the staple food crops - and cultivate cotton for cash instead.

Of the \$7.5 billion of US aid poured into Sahel since 1975, a mere

16 per cent has been devoted to rainfed cereal crops, the people's basic food, according to estimates made for UNICEF. Since 1980 cereal production in sub-Saharan Africa has decreased sharply.

Cash crop development strategies have floundered as international commodity prices dropped. So money intended to pay import bills for oil, and for servicing debts to western banks, was not earned. The screw was turned tighter because there was then no income to invest in agriculture and to compensate consumers or farmers for the decline in food production.

It would be unfair to give the impression that nothing has been done to improve food-producing technologies. For example, a drought-tolerant variety of sorghum recently introduced in the Sudan gives yields that are twice those of traditional strains. A new variety of cowpea with short growing seasons, drought tolerance, and resistance to virus and bacterial diseases, has been developed.

Native cattle tolerant to the dreaded sleeping sickness have been discovered, and this tolerance is being bred into susceptible native stock.

The latest techniques of biotechnology now employed in America

and Europe are needed. These transfer genetic characteristics between plants, using cell and tissue cultures, in the laboratory rather than protracted cross-breeding programmes. They can be used immediately to accelerate the creation of drought-tolerant and disease-resistant types of crops. Again, embryo transplantation used routinely in western animal husbandry holds the means of rapidly developing and introducing new livestock species.

But these benefits available from high technology are only of use when there is water for irrigation, animal dung for fertilizer and trees, which provide firewood as the cooking and heating fuel of the poor.

But as sources of wood diminish, villagers - usually women and children - spend more time searching for fuel and hauling it over long distances. They also burn increasing amounts of cattle dung and crop residue instead of returning them to the soil, thereby depriving fields of essential nutrients. In areas where trees were once a free commodity, firewood has become a valuable traded product and local industries can outbid villagers for it. Deforestation and soil erosion are a cause of the southward march of the Sahara desert of 100 kilometres a year.

## Practical projects

Agricultural research is failing to provide Africa with the advances like those which revolutionized rice and wheat cultivation in Asia and Latin America. No major breakthrough has been achieved in improving the genetic stock of millet and sorghum, which account for 80 per cent of the cultivated land in the sub-Saharan region.

Experience shows that research is needed into applying existing technology to local conditions, rather than the high-technology methods of the developed countries.

Traditional farming maintained soil productivity and forest cover against a background of a relatively stable population. This balance has been upset by the economic, political, social and climatic factors. Farmers have damaged the land by shortening the fallow period and extending the cultivated and grazed area. In some countries firewood is being used up 10 times faster than the growth of new trees. This deforestation has had an appalling effect on soil fertility and on water supply.

The case for large-scale rural tree-planting was one of the most forceful arguments in a recent study by the World Bank. It spelled out in stark terms what happens to the environment and its inhabitants when forests are destroyed.

One step forward is the introduction of fuel-efficient stoves, in which a load of wood that once lasted two or three days on an open fire will now last more than three weeks.

## 6 Camels can survive in droughts that kill other animals?

Encouraged by the launch of the International Water Decade, water supply has been one of the main focuses of aid agencies in recent years. But maintenance has been a severe problem, and the installation of village pumps is now being accompanied by training villagers to carry out basic repairs.

Two developments have been made by the International Livestock Centre for Africa. First is the single-ox plough that has been devised for the Ethiopian Highlands programme. The traditional plough drawn by two oxen was far beyond the means of the majority of farmers.

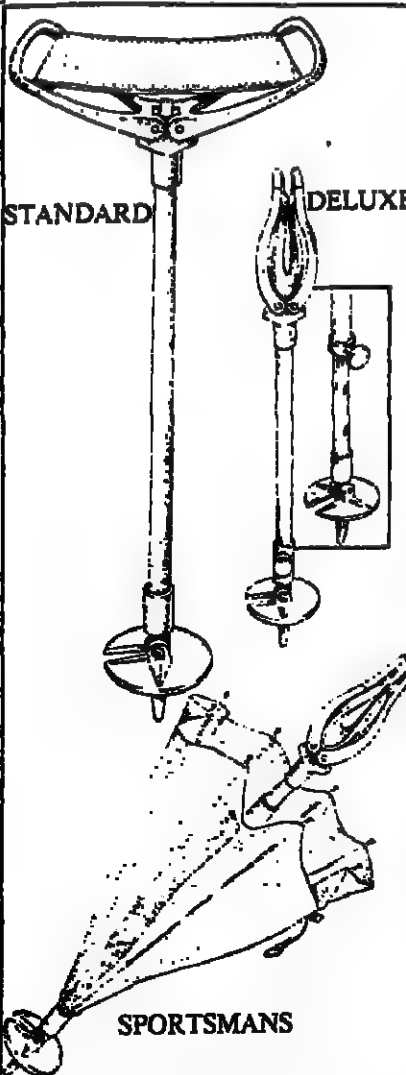
The second step forward is the adaptation of a simple metal scoop to construct ponds. The scoop is pulled by animals in Ethiopia to provide a reservoir of water throughout the dry season, and to clear silted ponds. The ox-drawn scoops are proving a better alternative than heavy earth-moving machinery which has been used for construction of ponds or dams. An oxen have been weakened by the drought, the camel has been used to draw the plough.

Camels, which are very strong, survive and produce milk in droughts that kill other animals.

New researchers have turned their attention to increasing their numbers. Scientists are reducing the normal breeding age from six to three years.

Past efforts of western science and technology to improve the lot of the small farmer in Africa have failed. The future seems to depend on farmers getting help to solve for themselves the problems about which they know best.

## SHOOTING STICKS



THE rather snobbish image associated with shooting sticks tends to obscure the fact that these are actually extremely useful accessories - making it possible to watch outdoor sport or activity without the discomfort of sitting on cold, hard and possibly damp ground. Their usefulness extends far beyond horse races and game shoots, being invaluable at school sports days, amateur football and cricket matches, etc.

OUR sticks are made in England to very high standards from rough aluminium and genuine leather. The handles are shaped to be easy to carry, and the 'sliding' leather seats are slightly padded to ensure comfort. A circular aluminium plate at the end of the shaft folds down to stop the stick sinking too far into the ground. Three styles are available:

THE Standard stick has a seat width of 32.5cm, an overall length (closed) of 84cm and weighs 1kg.

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## Mr Ant takes to the stage with a talent to abuse

It reminded Harold Hobson of Jane Austen's sense of ironic detachment while it struck Sean

O'Casey as merely "a play-to make a man want to pull his trousers up". It was so hot that it made *The Times* theatre critic's "blood boil", yet was so coolly witty that it inspired another pundit to call its author "the Oscar Wilde of Welfare State gentility".

The play in question was *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, the author, Joe Orton, Leicester's most infamous son. Orton's life became one of the 1960s' bizarre causes célèbres when he and his homosexual lover Kenneth Halliwell were found dead in their claustrophobic Islington bed-cot.

Their deaths bore one of the macabre hallmarks of one of Orton's savage black comedies. Now, some 20 years after *Entertaining Mr Sloane* was first presented at London's New Arts, the Royal Exchange Theatre Company in Manchester is reviving Orton's masterpiece in its most lavish stage presentation to date.

Director Gregory Hensov and designer David Short have concocted a stunning realization of the play which best mirrors Orton's own sexual ambivalence. Short - winner of the Gold Medal for Design at the recent Prague Quadrennial - has constructed an inspired version of the suburban house where the psychotic baby-faced murderer Sloane arrives to play out his eccentric ménage à trois with the middle-aged brother and sister, Ed and Kath. The house is situated, as Orton demanded, next to a rubbish dump. A perfectly sordid accompaniment to the strange goings-on within.

Despite the authenticity of the design, set in the round, the production's main talking points lie in its casting. Sloane: the principal role is played by Adam Ant, the pop star, in his first dramatic part. The rest of the cast is more conventional:



The unconventional: Joe Orton (left) and Adam Ant

Sylvia Syms, who was at RADA with Orton and Halliwell in the late 1950s, is Kath, while James Maxwell plays the lust-ridden, prurient Ed.

Adam Ant (born Stuart Goddard) has appeared on film before, notably in Derek Jarman's flawed punk rock evocation *Jubilee*, a movie he now describes as "a far too exotic flowers-in-the-dustbin affair for which I was paid a few pence, but more than a few eyebrows have been raised in acting circles by his casting. However, meeting Ant in the staff canteen of the Royal Exchange, one is struck by his visual suitability. A 30-year-old with exaggeratedly raven black curls might not have been quite what Orton had in mind for his 19-year-old stud, but his leathers, denim and motor cycle boots seem dead right.

The decision to cast Ant as Sloane was not taken lightly by company or actor. He was first approached late last year by senior director Braham Murray, who also knew the playwright well, having put on a 1966 production of *Look* at the University Theatre in Manchester. Braham thought Ant's background as a leading figure in the



The unconventional: Joe Orton (left) and Adam Ant

punk explosion of 1977 was a complementary attribute. For Sloane, while the pop star was delighted to escape from his natural milieu: "Sloane gave me the chance to avoid the stereotype parts rock stars are offered. It wasn't something wholly pretentious. Sloane's sexuality is important in pop, an area where your body is often your most vital asset. The sexual anarchy of punk, of groups like the Sex Pistols, is something I've drawn on as experience."

And Ant has studied his Orton: "The language remains contemporary. It has rhythm like a song lyric. The language is jargon and gutter talk; dribs and drabs from movies and TV. Orton constructed dialogue around appealing phrases, something a good songwriter tries to do."

The parallels between Sloane's ambiguity, his physical charisma and libertine qualities are also pop music staples: "He's young, wants to have an easy time and put his feet up, but he uses his body as a weapon when it suits."

involved in vice, in sex as a job. My friends were often male and female prostitutes. They were nice people usually, but there were also the rent-boys and hangers-on who could get violent. Vice made them tough and desperate."

Evidently a hard-working professional in his own sphere, Ant admits he did encounter certain problems tackling *Entertaining Mr Sloane*: "It's important not to be misled by the succulence of Orton's words. I'd never say a line like 'Anticipating some such tendencies on his part', but in the play these things have to be put across naturally. Otherwise you run the danger of turning Orton into farce, which tames it immediately. It isn't Brian Rix, even though my trousers are off in the first five minutes. The great thing about *Sloane* is that the goods are suggested but they're never on view."

Fortunately, working with

real pros like Sylvia and James I've learned quickly. You have to keep on your toes with them because, after all, it's their lives."

It will be interesting to see how audiences react to Orton's sly wit today. The moral strictures which he lampooned and helped to loosen have been replaced by extremes of opinion in the 1980s, where any promiscuity is balanced by the new conservatism. As Ant points out: "Weirdos of the 1960s like Andy Warhol now seem extremely straight and repressed."

Adam Ant believes that because of Orton's sexuality he was never really accepted into the mainstream with the same readiness as the "Angry Young Men", to whom he bore only a superficial resemblance: "But his death has given him legendary status."

Max Bell

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| 6 Upper limb (3)   | 7 Swavage peninsula (4,2,7)   | 15 Still breeze (4)             | 23 Replen (4)           |
| 8 Lacking moisture (3)   | 9 Defence stakes (8)  | 16 Consumed with vegetables (8) |                         |
| 10 Indian ox (4)   | 11 Freak (6)  | 17 Implant (6)                  |                         |
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# WEDNESDAY PAGE

Ringing the changes: Pearson Phillips reports on the ins and outs of telephone people

## Direct line to the smart set

It is to swinging, trendy, privatized British Telecom that I am indebted for the information that it is fashionable to sleep without pyjamas, as long as you have a telephone in the bedroom.

Ever since a certain Professor Alan Ross wrote an article called "Linguistic class-indicators in present-day English" in 1954, the British people have been hooked on anything which tells them how well they are performing on the social ladder, and how badly their neighbours are doing. First it was U and non-U, then it was In and Out, Sloanes and Wallies ushered in a new, chaotic era of sub-groups: Yaps, Yuppies, Foodies and Fogies.

And now, heaven help us, meet the Phonies. The commercial world has long been aware, of course, that there was money in all this. Get your product "In" and you are away. Let it slip "Out" and bankruptcy will loom. Imagine what desperate scenes there must have been among the makers of "cruets" when Professor Ross, followed by Nancy Mitford, gave them the thumbs down in 1954. (Let us hope they were clever enough to

diversify into those plain wooden Italian-style pepper grinders in time).

Advertising alone cannot work the miracle. Something more subtle is needed in order to harness the hidden social currents. British Telecom has found an answer to its prayers: a favourable Gallup poll.

In setting out to maximize sales potential by making the telephone a smart, fashionable, "in" instrument the lads at BT set themselves a huge task. All the more so on account of the fact that they seem to insist on calling their product a "phone". The word "phone" was, I would have thought, put in its place for ever by the late Sir John Betjeman with a line that will live for ever: "Phone for the fish knives, Norman".

Unbashed, BT invented an In-phone, and commissioned a Gallup poll which shows that having several telephones, including at least one of the cordless type, is what today's In-Crowd believes life is all about.

How did they reach this conclusion? They started by collecting a group of today's "leading opinion formers", with their help, they then

compiled a list of statements about what is in and what is out. They then asked their statistical sample of 404 upper-income-group men and women between 16 and 44 throughout Great Britain whether they agreed, strongly agreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed or didn't care. That is called "dipstick research".

### It is social death to be without a cordless phone

Who were the "opinion formers"? They included a girl from Cosmopolitan magazine, the highly successful woman behind the Brown's fashion empire, Joan Bernstein, the ever-swinging Peter Cadbury, the elegant Jocasta Jones, and a man on the cutting edge of social observation called Nicholas Monson.

The poll confirms that a large number of things which emerge from this investigation as "in" imply extended use of the telephone service. For instance, two-timing, or having an affair is apparently in (56 per cent).

say it is, and the figure goes up to 64 per cent among working women. Think of the phone calls in that all those weekend excursions to the call-box down the road... all those times when the wrong person picks up the phone and it goes dead. All those agonizing calls to friends saying "What shall I do?"

Writing love letters is out (57 per cent). It is in to spend hours on the phone instead. Sending flowers is in. That's another phone call. So are what our leading opinion formers call "traditional weddings". You can bet your life Monson will spend a fortune on the phone organizing those.

Having got through questions about fashion (the baggy, jogging look is in for men, the Princess Diana look is out for women), homes and holidays, the survey finally gets to the real point of the exercise: telephones.

Electric toothbrushes are out, but having more than one phone in the house is in (81 per cent said so). There was a general thumbs down for quaint Mickey Mouse phones. But significant support for push-buttons (92 per cent), number memory (65 per cent) and a phone in the kitchen (65 per

cent). There was even more support for a phone in the bedroom (82 per cent). It also appears to be social death to be without a cordless model lying around somewhere (79 per cent say in).

Slowly we discover the kind of people whom BT has approached. They are people who have soaked up the latest of the fashionable British post-war categories, The Young Aspiring Professionals, the hard-working ("being a workaholic" is in) would-be BMW owners (86 per cent say it's in) who go to wine bars rather than pubs (port and lemon is out) and believe in "displaying success" (51 per cent).

And how do they display it? By owning a Mafinair, a microwave oven, a video, a home computer, a telephone answering machine, and a "modern plug-in phone which matches the decor". The full details of the ins and outs of this tribe are revealed alongside.

There are one or two surprises. Close study of the survey shows that the Midlands and Wales do not seem to think like the rest of us. The Princess of Wales is still in, in Leicester, Shropshire and Cardiff. Tartan is generally out, especially in Scotland, but in in the Midlands and, curiously, Wales. The great geographical heart of England also, apparently, thinks that "The Thrifties Look" is in, while it is out everywhere else.

There are some strange differences as well. Men think diamond earrings are terribly old hat for women. Women think they are in. Talking of hats, men think women in hats are out, women think they are in. Everyone thinks men in hats are out.

### 6 Rolls-Royces and men wearing hats are out

It is also odd how the Atlantic divides attitudes. British Telecom tells us that here Harris tweed, cavalry twill and brogues are out for men, but that "the clean-cut casual look", with slip-on shoes, is in. In America it is the other way round.

I am amazed to see that "do-it-yourself" is in. Doing-it-yourself, and pretending that you have had someone in to do it for you, is more in. Rolls-Royces and gold bathroom fittings are out, even in the Midlands. Holidays at home also seem to be gaining favour. Over 80 per cent think that watching television news is the height of trendiness. Watching Benny Hill, on the other hand, is the pits.

The theatre is in, though it is not clear whether this means going to it, or just reading the reviews.

But telephones are where it's at. The survey discovered that 95 per cent of the sample had heard of cordless telephones, but only 29 per cent had ever used one. Think of the potential there. Then there is automatic redialling, number memory, on-hook dialling (24 per cent did not "fully understand" what that is, and nor do I) and one-piece equipment. The only danger will be if they sell so many of these delights that they stop being in and become out, like fish forks. (I already know of one trend-setter who has startled his American banking employers by refusing to have a push-button phone on his desk, and demanding an old-fashioned dialling instrument).

Nevertheless, there is plenty of mileage in it yet. Eventually even the Midlands and Wales might catch on. I only wish I'd been trendy enough to get some British Telecom shares.



### HALLMARKS OF THE 'OUT' SET

- Following fashion slavishly
- Punk and Boy George looks
- Luxury and sequins
- Furry dice, personalized sunstrips and CB radio
- Pyjamas
- Electric toothbrushes
- Gold bathroom fittings
- Mickey Mouse phones
- Drinking port and lemon
- Holidays on the Spanish mainland
- Holiday camps
- Computer dating and women proposing
- Tea in a hotel
- Reading trashy novels
- Watching Benny Hill on TV
- Sloane Rangers and being seen at Henley and May Balls
- Writing letters, especially love letters

| IN FASHION              |                                |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Women                   | Men                            |
| Leisure/jogging wear    | Sporty, clean-cut, casual wear |
| Baggy, layered clothing | Training shoes                 |
| Classic dress           | Slipovers                      |
| Court shoes             | White                          |
| V-neck sweaters         | Blocks of colour               |
| Lease tights            | Khaki                          |
| Ties                    | Leather                        |
| Black and white         | Wool                           |
| Bright blue and red     | Denim                          |
| Leather                 | Flannel                        |
| Wool                    |                                |

| IN LIFESTYLES  |  |
|--|--|
| Young, professional, socially mobile people - "Yuppies"        |  |
| Displaying success   |  |
| Intellectualism  |  |
| Foodies  |  |
| Nepotism   |  |
| Work and workaholics   |  |
| Sending singing telegrams and telexes                          |  |
| Reading a quality Sunday newspaper and the News of the World   |  |
| Spending holidays in villas                                    |  |
| Having personal stationery                                     |  |
| Driving BMWs and Sports Mercedes                               |  |
| Going out to dinner with lots of friends                       |  |
| Drinking wine, gin and tonic                                   |  |
| Watching TV, especially the news and Minder                    |  |
| Being designer conscious and interested in fashion for oneself |  |

| IN THE HOME                 | IN PLACES           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Comfort                     | Greece              |
| Rustic/country cottage look | Paris               |
| Hi-tech                     | Scotland            |
| Pine                        | West Indies         |
| Mahogany                    | Skiing in the USA   |
| Jazzie                      | Morocco             |
| Gas log fires               | Turkey              |
| Bidet                       | The theatre         |
| Festoon blinds              | Cinemas             |
| Plants                      | Italian restaurants |
| Gadgets                     | Indian restaurants  |
| Remote control              | Hamburger chains    |
| Videos                      |                     |
| Microwave ovens             |                     |
| Home computers              |                     |
| British Telecom             |                     |
| Ipophones                   |                     |
| Answering machines          |                     |

### TALKBACK

From Deborah Derrick, Senior Information Officer, National Council for One Parent Families, Kentish Town Road, London NW3.

Though Suzanne Greaves shows welcome concern for young drug addicts to end the series Family In Crisis, she seems herself under the influence of a growing and dangerous phenomenon: blaming parents for society's ills.

The article "Starting off on a life of crime" implies a strong connection between one-parent families and drug addiction without any evidence to support this view. We help 10,000 one-parent families each year with over 14,000 problems and believe there is nothing to uphold this contention.

The article moreover does a grave disservice to the many lone parents who, despite increasing hostility towards them, are raising their children successfully. The reality is that one in three marriages end in

Family In Crisis, the three-part series in The Times last week (May 6, 8 and 9), provoked some lively comment. In particular, two readers took issue with what they saw in the articles as a suggestion that parents, especially single parents, are responsible for society's ills.

divorce and one in five children will experience divorce by the age of 16. But successive Government policies mean many one-parent families are poor and, since most are headed by women, large numbers depend on low wages to meet essential domestic bills.

There is no reason to link working mothers with conditions producing drug addiction. If you really care for the future of children, you should highlight the cuts in day-care provision and tax on workplace

nurseries, the threatened benefit cuts in the Government's social security review and, not least, the despair of unemployed youth which makes them prey to drug pushers.

From Julie Kaufman, General Secretary, Gingerbread (for lone parents and children), Wellington Street, London WC2.

Young people who take drugs come from every social class and a variety of family backgrounds. Children who hang around after school are in many cases doing so to avoid contact with either, or both, of their parents. With our work in Gingerbread we are in daily contact with many thousands of lone parents who, despite their problems, quietly get on with bringing up tomorrow's stable citizens.

The family is still there with, as always, a range of individual differences regarding composition and parenting abilities. The family is not the cause of society's problems, it is one of its victims.

### Self interest

From William Boywer, Home Farm, Hurs Green, Surrey.

It would be dangerous to draw too many conclusions about the attractions of the single life from your article "Declaration of Independence". April 14, Most of your examples live in London and all appear to be more than comfortably off.

Most single parents are so by accident rather than design. They are committed to bringing up children on their own, doing all the domestic chores and probably trying to earn a living as well. They have little time to enjoy themselves even if they are not on the breadline and opportunities for social contact outside work or friends are very limited. Many of these "singles" are desperately lonely - why else the growth in organizations like Gingerbread?

Your vision of a world full of individuals in their striped-pine kitchenettes is a vision of horror where man has ceased to communicate with man.

## Death still stalks Exorcist Road

Bunker Hill Road, Washington, was once a small tree-lined avenue. Today it is a forlorn place of rundown houses and deserted people. Tragedy strikes with a rhythmic, chilling certainty.

Some of the old people still remember the grotesque young man who lived in the road until the exorcism came. When things go wrong, there is a search for a cause, a search for a plot of land at the end of the road, where number 3210 used to stand.

Scott Woodcock was burned to death in Bunker Hill Road last June. John Plummer was murdered on his way home a year before that. Della Winkley was burned alive three months previously. Ellen Day was murdered indoors a year earlier.

Last month Robert Bourgeois was charged with shooting two women with a shotgun and setting fire to their bodies. People say the number of natural deaths is extraordinary.

Plot 3210 looks peculiarly bare, covered only by a thin, coarse layer of grass and weeds. The fire brigade burned down the derelict remains of the old house 20 years ago. Parts of garden wall remain, and concrete steps rise to an imaginary front door.

Nobody will build on plot 3210. Nobody, indeed, seems sure who owns it. The events of 1949, immortalized in the film The Exorcist, continue to unsettle Bunker Hill Road.

Father Albert Hughes, was the exorcist whose exploits were dramatized by Hollywood. He was the Roman Catholic priest of St James's, the neighbouring church, "the possessed" 14-year-old boy - not a girl as depicted in the film - is 50 now, married with children, supposedly happy and living somewhere far away in America.

His whereabouts are known only to the Catholic Church. He long ago converted from Lutheranism to Catholicism. One or two old people in the neighbourhood know his name but none, strangely, will tell.



The empty plot at 3210: Ghosts seem to haunt it

Father Hughes only once discussed at length his experiences during the exorcism. A few days later, in October 1980, he died. The conversation happened over dinner with his young assistant, Father Frank Bohrer, who is now at the St Stephen's Martyr Church in central Washington.

They would frequently ramble on the personality of Bunker Hill Road. "It makes you wonder why certain areas are more prone to heinous crimes", Father Bohrer said.

Father Hughes never fully recovered from the exorcism. Father Bohrer said he became introspective, smiled less and was "prayerful".

The first rite was conducted at Georgetown University. The boy was held to the bed with leather straps. He burnt one strap, tore out a bed spring and ripped open Father Hughes's arm with a sword. Scars marks surrounded and disappeared on the boy's body. He spoke in a tongue believed to have been Aramaic, a Semitic language from biblical times.

Father Bohrer said: "Father Hughes told me that furniture moved around the room. Chairs were flying around tables. The

voice was hoarse. The language was foul. Afterwards the boy had other exorcisms in St Louis, Missouri, by a Jesuit priest. I do know that he is happy now."

Not many people seem happy on Bunker Hill Road. Marilyn Smith described it as a neighbourhood of tragedy. Bill Clouser is recovering from a heart attack. He swears his house is haunted.

Mary Landolt, who lives immediately next door to number 3210, insists that nothing ever happened there, that the strange goings-on took place in some other street. Nora Pittzinger said she knew the boy and knew where he was living now. "I'd never tell. None of us would. I won't talk about it. Tell Father Bohrer. I never told you. It's a horrible, horrible business."

Bunker Hill Road was a middle-class area at the time of the exorcism. Today it is a wretched, poor white enclave gripped by crime and a pervasive sense of hopelessness. It is little wonder that number 3210 Bunker Hill Road has assumed such demonic significance in the minds of the people.

Christopher Thomas

## A seasonal escape from the mousetrap



Shona Crawford Poole

So much of the food on our tables is either processed or imported from sunny climes that many of the raw materials of our meals have become detached from their natural seasons.

We still look forward to spring lamb, summer strawberries, autumn apples and winter sprouts, but many other foodstuffs have lost their place in the seasonal scheme of things. Take cheese.

The idea that cheeses too are better at one season than another is fading fast. In part this is for the very good reason that the bulk of cheese manufactured has become as standardized as the cut white sandwich loaf. The consumer is judged to want a predictable, consistent product, and that majority which does it brilliantly served. The quality of cheese available in good supermarkets is very high and the choice increases constantly.

So what kinds of cheese are better at one season than another or only made at certain times of year? One of the cheeses - Randolph Hodgson, owner of Neal's Yard Dairy in Covent Garden, picks out as being particularly good now is Devon Garland, a pressed cheese with a layer of herbs in the centre. It is made from the unpasteurized milk of a Jersey herd which grazes in water meadows near Barnstable.

"This cheese is particularly good in spring and autumn because the cows are out and the temperature is just right for cheesemaking", he explained.

"In winter, when the cows are in, the milk is not quite as good. In summer the cows are out, the milk is great but the cheesemaking happens so fast in high temperatures that the cheese will go crumbly."

His own spring choice are the Swaledale cheeses which have a distinctive sour taste and a following of keen admirers. "We have people coming into the shop every week from early March asking when the Swaledales will be coming in."

About 30 different English cheeses can be found in Neal's Yard Dairy at this time of the year. "One one that I know of is doing only British cheeses", said Randolph Hodgson. "They all seem to be under the impression that they have got to supply English cheese only as an addition to French, just tagged on."

The selection of British cheeses available today has increased dramatically compared with only four years ago, he says. "The expansion has been very noticeable. What has happened in the last couple of years is that small-scale makers have felt able to sell outside their local markets. They have been growing more confident. Most of the cheesemakers we are selecting from have been making for at least the last five years."

As well as their own fresh cheeses, new names like Thixendale and Ribblesdale, and carefully selected and well-cared for examples of all the traditional hard cheeses, Neal's Yard carries rare unpasteurized farm cheddars that will dazzle taste buds accustomed to factory mousetrap. The Grant's cheddar made in December 1982 and the Montgomery's made 11 months later are superb. One

taster remarked that he had not smelled cheese like that since before the war.

The Great British Cheese Book by Patrick Rance (Penguin, £3.50) is readable, encyclopaedic, and has been justly described as a *tour de force* and a classic. It carries exhaustive lists of cheese producers and specialist retailers. The classic work on French cheeses, Androuet's *Guide du Fromage* (the English edition is published by Aidan Ellis at £9.95) lists month-by-month selections of cheeses which can be expected to be at their best.

Quentin Russell of The London Cheese Company put together for tasting one of Androuet's May selections. When we got to the Bre de Meaux which was soft, but not a bit gummy, he said: "A Frenchman would like it like this, firm, almost a little chalky in the centre. Runny is a bad thing. It means that a secondary fermentation is taking over."

Tasting is encouraged at The London Cheese Company, supplier to such institutions as The Ritz and Lord's Cricket Ground, and at Neal's Yard Dairy. "It goes against the grain of English people not being fussy about their food", says Randolph Hodgson, "but if you give people a taste of two or three different cheeses they are very, very sure about what they do and don't want."

I have found that it pays to taste not only the cheese you are planning to buy but anything else that a specialist shop advises is on song that week. Quentin Russell's Le Papillon Roquefort, and pasteurized teleggio and munster are powerful cheeses I would not have thought of choosing until I tasted them.

A useful recipe for leftovers of any fairly strong cheese are these crisp cheese biscuits.

Quick cheese biscuits

Makes about 30

110g (4oz) cheese, grated

110g (4oz) butter, softened

65g (2oz) plain flour

Salt and cayenne pepper to taste

Beat together the cheese, butter and flour until the mixture is thoroughly blended and season it to taste with salt and cayenne. (Alternative seasonings include celery salt, caraway and nutmeg.)

Mould small teaspoonfuls of the mixture into balls and space them well apart on a greased baking sheet. Flatten them slightly and bake the biscuits in a preheated hot oven (220°C/425°F, gas mark 7) for about 10 minutes, or until they are pale golden. Do not overbake them or the cheese will have a bitter taste. Transfer the biscuits to a wire rack to cool. Store in an airtight box.

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## CENTRE BACKWARD

Mr Francis Pym is nothing if not a political man. Few of his colleagues would look to him for a fine-tuned strategy for industrial investment or a new solution to crises in the exchange rate. Many, however, will read his speech last night for clues to the future prospects of the Tory Party, its electoral tactics and its leadership.

The doubters about his fitness to advance economic policy will have all their views confirmed. His speech in Oxford contained nothing new of substance. He attacked the Government's portrayal of the economic recovery. He argued that the Government was wrong to promote its economic prospects on the basis of the year 1981 - the low point of the recession. "If one takes 1979 as the base," he said, "the growth in the GDP in the five years to 1984 has been little more than three per cent in real terms or just over half a per cent a year". He argued against the regional imbalances in the recovery, saying that only the south-east, south-west and East Anglia were better off now than in 1979. He pointed out that manufacturing output in 1984 was seven per cent less than in 1979. He called for an end to "massive deflation".

The fact is that between mid-1981 and the end of 1985 Britain's real GDP will have risen by about two-and-three-quarters per cent a year, making it the only country apart from the United States to have regained its earlier growth rates. The fact is that this growth has not brought a return to high inflation. The fact is that growth in manufacturing output in 1984 is up three-and-a-half per cent, the biggest rise since 1973 and that the CBI members report their strongest manufacturing order books since 1977. The fact is that it is difficult to describe an economic policy as "massive deflation" when money GDP is planned to rise by nine per cent next year with an inflation rate of five or six per cent.

Mr Pym is not a numbers man at heart unless the numbers refer to votes cast for his Party. He should be judged on his own political terms not on his powers over economic statistics. On this ground how does he stand? Is he attempting to make Conservative voters see the economic recovery that is going on about them? Clearly not. Is he even attempting to warn his colleagues of the dangers of radical policies to reform rates and the welfare state? He is not. Instead he is indulging in (and losing) a statistics battle about the base-lines which to hold an economic argument. The man who would be the Tory economic architect, sifting the evidence of monetary failures in the early years of Mrs Thatcher's first term like some leisure academic.

So what are Mr Pym's real motives? His speech emphasized the new "group's" concern to change policies, not change the leadership. He eschewed political ambition. In the first words of his speech he announced "the formation of a group of back-bench Conservative MPs of which I have agreed to be Chairman". He spoke of "trying not to undermine the Government's objectives".

There is nothing new in the formation of a back-bench Conservative group to pressurize the Government whips. Behind the scenes these are often effective, as Mr Pym - a former chief whip - knows well. By coming out into the open, however, such pressure groups tend not only to frighten potential Conservative friends who are reluctant to stand up and be counted but also to inspire a backlash amongst the loyalist majority.

So why come out into the open? In Mr Pym's words, "we do not feel disloyal". "Differences always tend to be highlighted," he said "and sometimes they need to be if they are to be resolved". So by coming out into

the open, he wants to resolve his policy differences with Mrs Thatcher's government. He wants her to change tack, and thinks that a full-frontal assault is the way to do it.

Will he succeed either in destabilizing her policies or in destabilizing her position? Some of Mrs Thatcher's more cynical supporters argue that the new group is harmless, that its announcement is well timed from their point of view since it will blow itself out at a time when there is little electoral threat to the Government. Those, however, who have a more respectful attitude to Mr Pym are more circumspect. They say that even if many wet MPs resent the call to stand up and be counted, the resulting appeal to the Party centre could start a ball rolling in these quiet times that, when Conservative Centre Forward finally chooses to strike, could have become a dangerous weapon.

The Government has to take this possibility seriously. If Mr Pym's speech had a coherent theme it was that the Government is too satisfied with its performance and that he (backed by the CBI, ICI, GEC and the Church) is not satisfied. Will those who are not satisfied (the word appears ten times in the speech) please join Conservative Centre Forward?

It is a simple call - and may be a successful one. But those who attempt to follow it should look to his final analysis. He wants more borrowing. He wants more Government intervention. He wants "mutual understanding" between Government and unions. He wants a more stable exchange rate. It is a familiar list. Many Socialists and Social Democrats would not dissent but the opposition parties do at least have the courage to outline the national investment banks, the exchange controls, and incomes policies that would be imposed at the same time. Mr Pym has not. He is nothing if not a political man.

## THE SUN HAS RISEN

In the House of Commons today the Labour Party will launch an attack on the Government's alleged failure to commit enough public funds to activities which are fashionably described as "sunrise industries" and "industries of the future". There will no doubt be the standard familiar and rather tedious complaints that a lack of government support has been responsible for Britain's retreat in an international competitive struggle.

The Government would have a role if it could be demonstrated that the private sector, and more particularly the financial system, had overlooked the attractions of high-tech companies. In fact, Britain has a wide and impressive range of institutions which have supported the growth of new industries without any special prompting from the Government. In addition to specialist venture capital funds and organizations like Investors in Industry, the banks and the Stock Exchange have shown awareness of the risks and particular requirements of high-tech financing.

All the clearing banks have subsidiaries which can arrange equity finance for fledgling businesses, while the Stock Exchange established the unlisted securities market in November 1980. The USM has undoubtedly inspired entrepre-

neurship in activities which can involve considerable risk as well as advanced technology.

It is true that Britain is a long way behind the USA and Japan in several of the new industries. But this seems to be a European problem, not something specific to this country, and may be inevitable while European companies have home markets smaller and more constricting than those enjoyed by their American or Japanese rivals. By comparison with West Germany and France, Britain has performed rather well in high-tech.

The clearest example of Britain's relatively good position is provided by the computer industry. Production of semiconductor is about the same in Britain and Germany, both of which are some distance ahead of France, while consumption is higher here. If anything the gap between British and German consumption is widening at present because of the spectacular advances in our personal computer industry. It may unsettle Labour MPs if Mr Tebbit, using statistics in his Department's publication *British business*, tells them this afternoon that output of electronic data processing equipment virtually trebled between late 1981 and late 1984.

The main objection to the

Government's approach to the high-tech industries is not that there is too little aid, but that there is too much. Despite recent reorganization at the Department of Trade and Industry there is still a plethora of support schemes, project grants, cheap credits and so on. The DTI is able to grant 20 per cent of the investment cost of projects involving the production or design of advanced microelectronic, fibre optic and optoelectronic components. An industrialist in the West Midlands might reasonably ask why a government so generous to unproved technologies should be so reluctant to assist British Leyland.

The Government is right to be scrutinizing requests for high-tech aid with more care and a greater sense of commercial reality. In a recent speech Mr Tebbit said that the recovery in company profits would enable his Department to reduce the proportion of public money needed to finance innovation projects. In his words, government assistance would be "focused more sharply" than in the past. It is a pity that the Labour Party is not also able to understand that good high-tech businesses should depend on private profit, not public charity, if they are to succeed in the long run.

## THANKS TO

Today the Austrians commemorate the 30th anniversary of the State Treaty which restored their independence after years of Nazi rule followed by a decade of division under the four-power occupation forces. They have good reason to celebrate. Vienna avoided the tragic fate of Berlin and now plays host to international conferences such as the present gathering of foreign ministers who should be inspired by the example of one east-west agreement which has stood the test of time. Yet Austrians tend to date their new era of peace and prosperity not from the signing of the treaty in May, but from their declaration of permanent neutrality on October 26th 1955, after the last foreign soldier had left. And they are aware that authoritarian regimes respect neutrality only when it suits them.

Why did the USSR agree to withdraw from its zone of occupation? It is better known for maintaining control with tanks than for relinquishing territory with a stroke of the pen. Soviet spokesmen claim that they would have restored an independent Austria even before 1955 were it not for the United States and its NATO partners who wished to turn Austria into "that aggressive organization's Alpine fortress". They lay great stress on the

## KHRUSHCHEV - AND NATO

Berlin conference of February 1954 at which the Austrian representative denied that his country had any intention of joining a military alliance, and at bi-lateral talks in Moscow in April 1955 the Austrians undertook to maintain in perpetuity a neutrality similar to that of Switzerland. But Moscow's present account is incomplete, and does not even mention the Soviet leader most responsible for withdrawing the occupation forces.

After Stalin's death Soviet priorities changed. Nikita Khrushchev hoped that withdrawal from Austria would encourage West Europeans to regard their military and political union as less urgent, and that it would strengthen his arguments on the question of German reunification at the July 1955 Geneva summit. West Germany, with a greater population and stronger economy than East Germany, was about to join NATO; a neutral Germany expanding trade with the Soviet bloc would be greatly to Moscow's advantage. Khrushchev wished to obtain western recognition for the status quo in eastern Europe, increasingly restless since Stalin died, and intended to restore relations with Yugoslavia after the Tito-Stalin rift.

expand its influence further by crude force, perhaps a more subtle policy of "peaceful co-existence" would now pay greater dividends. Mr Khrushchev persuaded his colleagues to reduce considerably Soviet troop numbers, certainly an unnecessary drain on resources as the USSR developed missiles stocks and highly mobile forces. He removed Soviet troops from Finland and returned the port of Porkkala, but retained other Finnish territory occupied in the Winter War and insisted on establishing close economic ties.

Moreover, although Khrushchev had to overcome the opposition of Molotov and others, relinquishing the Soviet zone in Austria - situated as it was between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, with a capitalist West Vienna in its centre - was not a serious military loss; it was more than compensated for by the creation of a neutral Swiss-Austrian belt separating NATO forces in West Germany from Italy and Yugoslavia. Austria even agreed to pay for the return of enterprises seized by the USSR during the occupation, and promised to retain close economic ties. Austrians enjoy a life incomparably better than that of their neighbours across the barbed wire divide. But without the strength of NATO their neutrality would be precarious.

## A Tory voice of disillusionment

From Mr Robert Saunders

Sir, You and others who urge the Prime Minister to change her style have got it wrong. I cannot speak for the Walkers, the Pines, the Pynes or the Howells, but I suspect that I do speak for many ordinary one-time supporters of the Conservative Party who have become disillusioned by the Government's economic policy and who recently switched our votes in the local government elections, and possibly for others who loyally still voted Conservative but wondered how much longer they could conscientiously do so.

It is not presentation, but policy; it is not the facade, but the kerfuffle; it is not Mrs Thatcher, but Thatcherism that we find so disturbing. No economic theory, no matter how well argued, will overcome the commonsense belief that idle hands should be put to work doing the many jobs which need to be done, or that a Government which cannot do this without causing inflation must be grossly incompetent.

No, we are prepared to be won back into the Tory Party, but we will not be bamboozled back.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT SAUNDERS,  
Friar Mayne Farm,  
Broadmayne,  
Dorchester,  
Dorset,  
May 11.

From Mr H. M. McDonald

Sir, I wonder whether Conservative Centre Forward is going to score an own goal?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.  
H. M. McDONALD,  
64 Hammonds Lane,  
Great Warley,  
Brentwood,  
Essex.  
May 12.

## Morality and pay

From the Reverend A. Graham Heller

Sir, A week ago (leading article, May 3) you appeared to support Sir Keith Joseph when he said that questions of pay are not settled philosophically or morally. If teachers and nurses are selected to have their pay reduced year after year there is presumably no question of morality involved.

If £400m is spent on a Falklands airfield, £40m on helping Scottish businesses to pay their rates and at the same time it is made harder for teachers to pay their mortgages, then presumably no question of morality is involved.

Is this the new Toryism which teaches Marxism in its belief that economic freedom is the masters of all and that morality and philosophy must bow down to them? But are not market forces simply the averaging out of all our choices, and heaven help us if we lose all direction by simply failing to do what is right?

Those, Sir, who proclaim individualism as the supreme virtue may try to dispense with all morality, but let not a Government which disavows all moral obligation to its employees turn round and castigate them for their lack of social responsibility.

There is an acid Toryism which could dissolve all that binds us as a people, answerable to and belonging to one another.

This week, however, you have no doubt that "the moral dimension comes first" (leader, May 10). You will do us all a service if you can persuade the Government to clarify the basis of its morality - and do have a word with Sir Keith.

Yours sincerely,  
A. GRAHAM HELLER,  
Moamsham End,  
Marden,  
Hereford.  
May 11.

## Developing solar power

From Mr Stephen Dollond

Sir, The article by your Science Editor on "Cheap solar power for Britain" (April 18) quotes Professor Spear, of Dundee University, as saying that neither British companies nor the National Research and Development Corporation (now part of BTG) showed an interest in his pioneering work on amorphous silicon, now taken up by US and Japanese manufacturers.

I should like to point out that this is not so. Several large UK companies have spent large sums of money, much of this in Government grants, developing his ideas with little apparent success to date. NRDC was involved in negotiations with the companies concerned. The prospect of successful exploitation was prejudiced by the fact that NRDC was unable to obtain patent protection due to premature publication by Professor Spear and his colleagues.

Yours faithfully,  
STEVEN DOLLOND,  
Marketing Director,  
British Technology Group,  
101 Newington Causeway, SE1,  
April 22.

## Time on remand

From Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, MP for Knowsley North (Labour)

Sir, Your leader of May 7 summarizing a bulletin from the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders on the plight of remand prisoners said that: "More recently Mr Leon Britann, the Home Secretary, tackled the scandal of prolonged detention of remand prisoners in police cells. This is untrue."

Certainly he promised in July 1983, that he would end the routine use of police and court cells to house unconvicted and untried prisoners by the end of that year. Indeed, he took to the columns of *The Times* in a signed article on January 4, 1984, to announce that,

## Lessons from Bradford fire disaster

From the Director of the World Fire Statistics Centre

Sir, May I pick up an important point in your perceptive leader (May 13), in which you call for the terms of a judicial enquiry to be wide enough to allow the tribunal to draw out all lessons of general application.

The sad story of Government fire strategy throughout the world is that, with few exceptions, politicians are apathetic towards the problems of fire costs (human and property) until a disaster like Bradford occurs. Compared with road safety, crime prevention and industrial safety, fire prevention is a political Cinderella. Yet fire costs most advanced countries around 1 per cent of gross domestic product, and cost the UK over £2,000m in 1981 (the latest year for which the United Nations fire statistics have published figures).

In a recent Canadian fire study there were two major conclusions: 1. There is a critical weakness in data on which to develop an attack on the problems of fire protection - the deficiency in statistics may be taken as indicative of the long-term lack of concern for the fire problem on the part of governments.

2. There is a lack of a concerted attack on the fire problem. A similar position applies in most countries, yet many fire problems, like many health problems, are international in character. The World Health Organisation has eliminated smallpox by collecting international statistics, using them as a base for international research

studies, implementing the research findings and steadily monitoring progress.

Problems such as arson cannot be eliminated but could be dramatically lessened if tackled in this way. But at present international initiative on arson tends to be taken by fire protection associations, frequently short of time and money, rather than by governments.

Tragic though the Bradford disaster has been, if the Government seize the opportunity to cut fire costs, hundreds of lives and millions of pounds could be saved, thus making the biggest breakthrough in UK fire strategy since the Great Fire of London led to such innovations as new building regulations and the start of world-wide fire insurance.

Yours faithfully,  
R.T.D. WILMOT, Director,  
World Fire Statistics Centre,  
18 Chemin Rieu, 1208 Geneva,  
May 13.

From the Director of Programmes, Yorkshire Television

Sir, Far from forbidding BBC news to use our coverage of the Bradford football fire (report, May 13) Yorkshire Television specifically, by telecast, gave them permission to take footage, as you would expect in such tragic circumstances. The pictures were duly shown on numerous BBC TV bulletins, as your reporters could have seen.

JOHN FAIRLEY,  
Yorkshire Television,  
The Television Centre,  
Kirkstall Road, Leeds.

## Housing for the old

From the Director of the Housing Associations Charitable Trust

Sir, Page 3 of your issue of May 10 had three adjacent news items by separate correspondents on different aspects of the same problem.

In reporting a conference by the Building Employers' Confederation, you highlighted the scandal of the rapidly decaying state of our housing stock. About half of the owner-occupied houses are owned by pensioners, many on very low incomes, and the nation's housing stock is deteriorating faster than other buildings.

On the same page you report the plans to stop old people moving, many of them out of deteriorating houses that they cannot afford to maintain, into non-private residential homes at the expense of DHSS.

Between these two articles is a report on the DoE Green Paper on home improvement grants and repair grants.

Many old people on low incomes who live in their own houses with no other means of transport are able to remain where they are, with their houses in reasonable condition. Too often the comparatively small sums needed to achieve these repairs are

not available from the local authority, or else the bureaucracy is too complex for them to obtain help.

All too often they end up in a residential home, at public expense, where they become "institutionalised" and their vacated house rapidly ceases to be part of the national housing stock.

For the last few years our charity, in conjunction with other charities, local housing associations and other local groups, has been supporting a number of pilot projects in many parts of UK to assist old people to obtain the basic repairs needed to their houses and to remain in their own homes.

It is to be hoped that the DoE will listen to comments on the Green Paper from those involved in these pilot projects; perhaps then these old people will be able to remain in comfort in their own homes and not find it necessary to move into expensive institutions. As a by-product, part of the nation's housing stock will be preserved for the next generations.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. WRIGHT, Director,  
Housing Associations Charitable Trust,  
175 Gray's Inn Road, WCI.

## British car industry

From the Director of The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders Ltd

Sir, Your leader of May 8 comes to conclusions on the viability of the British motor industry before considering an obvious option for the Government which could change the whole picture. Our tax regime distorts the present situation, stifling demand for cars at home and inhibiting the exporting-earning component sector which supplies cars, trucks and buses.

Britain used to have the highest level of car ownership in Europe. It now has one of the lowest. The considerable potential for growth in the car market is being constrained by relatively low national wealth, prohibitive motoring taxation and an outdated, inadequate and badly maintained road system. Improvements in these areas would help to boost a car market which is currently contracting from its 1983 peak of 1.79 million units.

Thanks to recent improvements in production quality and care for the customer, the motor industry in Britain is capable - given the right economic environment - of taking a larger share of a bigger domestic market.

Removal of the ten per cent car tax (introduced as a temporary

measure in 1973) would be a major step in the right direction. Britain is the only car-producing country in the world to tax its motor industry in this way, making cars the only consumer durables to be penalised by a special tax on top of VAT. An imported washing machine, refrigerator, television, video recorder or microwave oven is subject only to VAT, but a British-built car is taxed at an effective 34.6 per cent.

And better roads would make it more acceptable and practicable to own a car. The investment needed would also have a deflationary effect by reducing freight costs and the cost of motoring - and would create more jobs in the process.

The support given to the motor industry by the Government has greatly augmented the industry's impressive recovery efforts. But it is a case of giving with one hand and taking away with the other. More must be done - urgently - to create an environment in which Britain's motor industry can survive and flourish, certainly before taking far-reaching decisions on its future shape.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY FRASER, Director,  
The Society of Motor Manufacturers & Traders Ltd,  
Forbes House, Halkin Street, SW1.

## 40 years on

From Mr Anthony Montague Browne

Sir, If the Russians succeed in burying the truth on the origins of the Second World War and ascribing total credit for victory to themselves, the fault is partially our own. During the war our leaders, including Winston Churchill, were fulsome in their praise of Soviet Russia. Not so the other way round. If Britain was mentioned at all, it tended to be in terms of complaints about inadequate aid, deficient will to fight and even hints of Western moves for a separate peace.

It is a feat that George Orwell would have gasped at for the Soviet leaders to make lengthy speeches about the Second World War without even mentioning the Nazi-Soviet Pact of 1939, and we here are also strangely reticent. Right up to the German attack in 1941 the Russian Press gloated over British defeats.

On the fall of Paris in 1940

Molotov sent a telegram of congratulations to Von Ribbentrop. In late 1940 the State Department published an admirably illuminating selection of documents captured from the German Foreign Office. It was called, as far as I can recollect, "Nazi-Soviet Relations" and was edited by Dr Raymond Sontag.

The extent of Soviet collaboration with the Nazis was both astonishing and nauseating. As fears of a German onslaught began to seep through in early 1941, the tone of communications from the Russians became increasingly whining and self-justificatory, on the lines that they were fully living up to the spirit of the 1939 Treaty and the Germans were not.

By all means let us have détente. But, "Those who do not learn from history..."

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY MONTAGUE BROWNE,  
11 St James's Place, SW1.



## ON THIS DAY

MAY 15 1948

Prior to World War I Palestine was part of the Ottoman empire. Some Zionists had settled in Tel Aviv and aspirations for the foundations of a national home for Jews were fuelled by the Balfour declaration of November 1917. A British mandate over Palestine was established in 1920 and immigration of Jews increased bringing them into conflict with the Arabs. Following World War II Jewish nationalist organisations engaged in an armed struggle against British forces and in 1947 a UN committee recommended the partition of Palestine. On May 14 1948 the mandate came to an end. The first president of the new state was Dr Chaim Weizmann (1874-1952); the first Prime Minister being Mr David Ben Gurion (1886-1973).

## NEW JEWISH STATE OF ISRAEL PROCLAIMED

TEL AVIV. May 14. - The birth of a Jewish State of Israel was proclaimed here this afternoon at an assembly of members of the Jewish National Council. The proclamation said: "We members of the National Council, representing the Jewish people in Palestine and the Zionist movement of the world, met together in solemn assembly on the day of the termination of the British mandate for Palestine, and by virtue of the natural and historic right of the Jewish people and by resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, hereby proclaim the establishment of a Jewish State in Palestine to be called 'Israel'."

The proclamation was broadcast over the newly created Jewish broadcasting station "Voice of Israel" and was made eight hours before the mandate officially terminated because Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath.

The proclamation also said: "As from the termination of the mandate at midnight tonight and until the setting up of duly elected bodies in accordance with the constitution to be drawn up by the Constituent Assembly not later than October 1, 1948, the present National Council shall act as the provisional Government of the State of Israel."

"The State will be open to all Jewish immigrants, will promote the development of the country for all its inhabitants, will be based on the principles of liberty, justice, and peace taught by the Hebrew prophets, will uphold full social and political equality for all its citizens without distinction of race, creed, or sex, and will guarantee full freedom of education and culture."

**SAFEGUARDS FOR SHRINES**  
The proclamation also promised safeguards for shrines and religious places of all religions, and that the State would dedicate itself "to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

The proclamation appealed to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in building their State and sought admission into the United Nations. It called upon the Arab inhabitants of the "State of Israel" to return to ways of peace, and promised them full citizenship and representation in the State bodies and institutions. Peace was also offered to the neighbouring Arab peoples.

The declaration concluded: "With trust in Almighty God we set our hand to this declaration in the city of Tel Aviv on this Sabbath eve, the fifth day of Iyar, 5708 (according to the Jewish lunar calendar), May 14, 1948." - Reuter.

## Doctors and advertising

From Dr F. G. Ferreira

Sir, "Swallow hard, Doctor, it might do you good" writes Stephen Aris on the subject of advertising by doctors (May 1). It probably would; but I wonder if it would do the patient any good. Certainly no evidence in support of patient benefit is produced in the article.

The Harrow Health Care Centre can hardly be held up as a triumph of medical advertising or of the economy of private general practice. Their drug costs appear to be about the average for National Health Service general practitioners and indeed greater than the average for East Anglian GPs. I doubt that they provide their medical services for 24 hours a day 365 days a year for the £16 per patient per annum which is the average for this area.

The provision of medical care in the National Health Service is not governed by the rules of a free market economy. GPs do not have complete freedom to choose where in the country they practise. Under the regulation of the Medical Practices Committee they are directed by positive financial incentive to "under-doctor" areas and away from prosperous "over-doctor" areas by very strong restrictions.

The introduction of advertising will quickly be followed by pressure from GPs to be allowed to practise where they want with the inevitable drift of doctors away from unpopular areas to areas with greater potential for attracting income-generating patients by advertising.

Yours sincerely,  
F. FERREIRA,  
20 Willow Green,  
Needlingworth,  
Cambridgeshire.

## Quote... unquote

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, James Fenton complains (book review, May 9) that he has been the victim of what might be termed a *para pro toto* on the part of Hamish Hamilton, who have made a selective use of his review of one of their books. A similar experience, if I remember right, befell James Agate years ago.

In writing about some play that did not please him he said that it was a load of rubbish but some people seemed to like this sort of thing and it seemed likely to run for ever. The notices outside the theatre said simply "Likely to run for ever (Agate)".

Yours faithfully,  
HENRY G. BUTTON,  
7 Amhurst Court,  
Grange Road, Cambridge.  
May 9.







# THE ARTS

Maria Ewing opens the Glyndebourne season next week in *Carmen*. Interview by John Higgins

## A new set of castanets for Carmen

Bizet's *Carmen* has been hovering in the Glyndebourne wings for many years. Moran Caplat pressed its claims regularly, but he never succeeded in getting it on stage during his lengthy tenure as general administrator. It was also at the back of Maria Ewing's mind when she made her debut at the Sussex opera house in 1978 in *Cost Fan Tuille*. She mentioned the fact to Peter Hall, director of that production, one evening on the train back to London. Although they had met for the first time only a few days earlier, Hall's reaction was immediate: "If ever you decide to sing *Carmen* I'll direct you in it."

And so it has come to pass that Maria Ewing, now Lady Hall, sings the title role in *Carmen*, the first of the season's new production at Glyndebourne, staged by her husband, opening on Monday. She sang the small part of Mercedes when she was 23 at the San Francisco Opera. Three years earlier she had been studying *Carmen* herself with her teacher, Jennie Tourel, well known as Bizet's gypsy in her day. "After one session which had gone quite well Jennie turned round and said 'Goddamit, I'd give you my castanets if I had them still', I knew very well

that she had no intention of parting with them. But it was a nice thing to say."

Thirty-five could be just the right age for Maria Ewing to sing her first *Carmen*, but there are, as the world knows, an awful lot of *Carmens* about, including those on screens large and small. Has she been to see them? Here Miss Ewing, who normally speaks very directly, becomes a bit guarded: "Well, let's say I've seen bits of them...". The implication is left quite clear.

Sir Peter Hall is well known for frequently changing tack during his rehearsal period, which lasts a full month for a new production at Glyndebourne. But it seems probable that *Carmen*, in the first French opera he has staged, will be a fairly earthy character and not the haughty, lady some mezzos affect.

"Peter and I have, naturally enough, had preliminary talks at home. We've agreed that *Carmen* is not a tragic figure until the very end, she causes her own death because she's probably not a very bright lady. She's not vulgar, but she hasn't got much taste either. In the last act, when she turns out in what finery she has, her costume and shoes don't

quite match. What she has is allure, she's dangerous in a playful sort of way. She will give things, including herself."

And what about the "Spanish" elements? Karajan brought a whole Spanish dance troupe in for his current Salzburg production, with a complete tourist show at Lillies Pastia's tavern in Act II.

"I'm afraid I don't go for all that. Who said *Carmen* was a Spanish opera? It's a French opera. When we were kids my sister was a Spanish aficionado: all that stamping and olés! But I put that away long ago. I don't want to be choreographed - I'd rather fake. There is no way that *Carmen* is a flamenco dancer: she is sexy when she dances because she dances with herself. I reckon that Jimmy Levine got it right years ago when we were talking about Lillies Pastia's one day at the Met. 'What's Pastia's like?' I asked. 'Why', he replied, 'it's a fun place. It's where the in-crowd go.'"

And the Met is where this production and Maria Ewing go next season after the Glyndebourne run. It is difficult to conceive two houses more different in size or atmosphere. Some adjustments will have to be made. "Obviously the Met cannot

act as a jewel box where every piece is clearly visible. But I think once an interpretation has been fixed you cannot change it. Production can be inflated but I'm not sure that interpretations can."

The Met, and Glyndebourne are the two houses where Maria Ewing is most likely to be heard these days. Has that been planned deliberately so that the Met is there to maintain the "big house" technique and stamina? "That's probably true if I search deep down inside me, but I don't really think that strategically. I sing at Glyndebourne because that's the place where I met Peter and it's where we live. The Met, let's face it, makes you in some ways a part of a factory, but in return it does give that New York frisson and grand sense of occasion."

The next part Maria Ewing is considering, although no contracts are yet signed, is Richard Strauss's *Salome*. It is not a role normally assigned to the lyric mezzo, which is the way the Ewing voice is usually described. "I've moved! I hate that title. In fact I have all titles that try to drive me into a pigeon-hole. When my epitaph comes to be written I hope it will just say: 'MARIA EWING - SINGER.'"



Maria Ewing: 'I hate being pigeon-holed'

## Television Learning to live with war

The most immediate way of dealing with warfare is simply to chronicle its progress, since there seems to be always a voyeuristic interest - either on the part of the film-makers or of the audience - in recording the carnage. *Barbarians* (Thames) was much more interesting than that; it was concerned with the civil war in Lebanon and, although there were some graphic images of the fighting, the emphasis rested upon the private experiences of three Lebanese women who have been forced, in the cant phrase, to "come to terms" with life in a divided and disturbed country.

It is, as one of them said, a "continuous war" and, as a result, the single most important quality to emerge from these women was one of courage against all the odds. And with that courage goes both a sense of "community", however narrowly it must now be defined, and an extraordinary ability to enjoy each moment of peace or happiness snatched from a general destruction which has already claimed the lives of 100,000 people.

There was of course a note of desperation in even their most relaxed moments - as one refugee remarked, "When a bird is killed it appears to dance but in fact it is writhing in pain" - but last night's documentary at least offered a demonstration of the persistence and momentum of "ordinary" life in a place and time when it is most threatened. And yet if these were the most enduring images, the most poignant ones were of the waste and horror inflicted upon human beings as a result of a conflict which no one seemed properly to understand.

Peter Ackroyd

● The fifth Almeida Festival, from June 8 to July 8, includes a celebration of American experimental music from 1905 to 1985 entitled *At the Tomb of Charles Ives*. American composers attending the festival include Conlon Nanorow, Philip Glass, Morton Feldman, Frederic Rzewski and the 88-year-old Virgil Thomson.

● The composer George Benjamin has won the 1985 award of the Lili Boulanger Memorial Fund, worth \$3,500.

## Lonely Cowboy Tricycle

Alfred Fagon's play, commissioned as the second production in the Tricycle's black theatre season, is a rare example of an ethnic piece that escapes the usual entertainment or agit-prop categories and enters the more complicated world of tragic-comedy, suggesting the possible emergence of a Caribbean O'Casey.

The title refers both to a Brixton café and to its proprietor, Flight (Jim Findley), a reformed drug pedlar, now pushing nothing more illegal than home-made punch. Of course, these things take time, and on the day the café opens Flight is out on the town chasing up ganja debts, much to the fury of his girl-friend Gina, who is stuck behind a bar rehearsing her grievances to the clientele while keeping them waiting for tea.

Lots of people pop in. There

## Theatre Café society in Brixton

is Dalton, a black community poet who has to be regularly stifled; and Theima, a leggy barmaid whom Gina takes on as a waitress. There is Jack, who has just joined the Met, and finds the place goes very quiet when he comes in wearing his helmet. There are also two drug-pushers, Wally and Stanley, who are by no means reconciled to losing Flight's professional services.

The piece bowls merrily along, enabling you to get to know the crowd and get attuned to their jaunty, sardonic speech rhythms. A story begins coming into focus when Stanley makes off with the waitress, and then gets jailed for stealing Wally's bicycle. But the whole atmos-

phere, even Gina's blazing rows, is one of amiable comedy performed by ordinary people you would meet on any Brixton street. Then Stanley returns to the café, having staked out a great new ganja market in prison; and, like a flash of summer lightning, the stage is filled with knives and guns for a massacre that also spells the death of The Lonely Cowboy. Policeman Jack walks on in his civvies and blinks, helplessly out of his depth.

No doubt it could happen like that; but on stage it simply leaves you blinking too. Mr Fagon has assembled the piece on the "and" principle with small attention to cause and

effect. Clients arrive, gossip, and depart in formless sequence that fails to stir any desire to know what happens next; and, crucially, omits any preparation for the last minute switch from neighbourhood comedy to underworld violence. This, of course, is an outsider's view; and Monday night's West Indian audience were rocking with appreciation at Mr Fagon's dialogue, particularly when it touched on "front-line" policing and bossy womenfolk. My feeling is that they would have relished it even more if the author had a better grip of stage narrative.

Some of the figures in Nicholas Kent's productions (particularly the two pushers) are flimsily defined. Calvin Simpson's Jack is an expert lowly study of a nice guy bewildered at the suspicion his uniform attracts and there is a smashing, pugnacious performance from Angela Wynter as the lone cowboy's better half.

Irving Wardle

Sarah Hemming reports on the Glasgow Mayfest

## How to catch the spirit of a city

It is not often that you see a standing ovation; but I did see one at this year's Glasgow Mayfest, indicating that with one production at least, Mayfest has achieved its awesome self-imposed brief to meet the spirit of the city. Now in its third year, the two-week long festival matches international with community events, always mindful that the many-sided character of Glasgow incorporates both Scottish opera and a strong socialist tradition.

This year there are perhaps fewer cheerily idiosyncratic international productions than

last year, although two companies from Chicago are giving British premieres here (Widom Bridge Theatre Company and the Joel Hall Dancers, both to be seen in London as part of the American Festival). What Mayfest has definitely done, however, is to provide a good focus for some of the important Scottish companies, one of these being 7:84 Scotland, in a lively, powerful and moving production of Joe Corrie's *In Time of Strife*.

A life miner himself, Corrie wrote the play in anger and frustration at the end of the

1926 strike. This is its second revival by 7:84, the first being for their "Clyde Built" season in 1982, since when it has clearly taken on new relevance. Corrie, not unlike O'Casey, shows the effect of a large political struggle on individuals in a small community. Setting the play at the end of the strike when the tide is turning, he presents two families caught between principles and personal hardship, and turns the action on the opening rift between blacklegs and strikers.

It is a very humane account. Corrie's clear understanding of the complexity and confusion of personal and political motivation making each of his characters sympathetic, from the outlawed blackleg to the embittered striker, and the issues it raises are uncannily familiar even to the emergence of the women as a strong force.

In production terms only the high spot of the evening has to be a CIA agent doing a honky-tonk number - if the same wit and invention ran through all the staging, the production would be as strong usually as it is musically. The company's message brought them a standing ovation that handsomely repaid their gamble in taking on one of Glasgow's large popular theatres.

The Scottish Theatre Company has also drawn on popular theatre but for very different ends: bringing together two of Scotland's best known comedians, John Grieve and Walter Carr (*Waiting for Godot*). Directed by Peter Dewe, these tramps are not stylised vaudeville but very human and sadly recognizable. John Grieve's Vladimir is well disposed intellectually optimistic and yet sadly resigned as he blusters about the stage, while Walter Carr, a petulant, slightly camp stagehand (less firmly defined) sits still or shuffles in a permanent wince.

Their mutual dependence is brought all the more sharply into focus by Hugh Sullivan's strong performance as Pozzo who thrusts the antagonistic tramps together. But while this human tangibility brings out the compassion of Beckett's play, what is lost entirely is the relevance of its music hall "business".

Finally Mayfest offered two productions - which received Fringe Firsts in Edinburgh last year and both deservedly so. Kick Theatre Company's *Measure for Measure*, directed with quiet authority by Deborah Warner, moves with controlled intelligence through Shakespeare's mild somewhat. The cast come frock-coated, emphasizing the questionable value of Victorian virtues, and there is a fine performance from Hilary Townley as Isabella. Likewise Doric Theatre Company's *Prevarious Living*, Amy Hardie's moving play about a fisher woman judged insane, is as intelligently acted as it is written, and directed with deceptive simplicity by Neil Scott.

## Jazz Loose Tubes Ronnie Scott's

Even were it to fulfil its proprietor's long standing promise to present a bill featuring Pam Ayres, the Dagenham Girl Pipers and the Red Arrows, Ronnie Scott's Club could never feel less than a jazz club. Probably never, though, has it felt more like a jazz club than on Monday evening, when most of the 21 members of Loose Tubes left the bandstand to parade around the aisles and tables in a hectic and hilarious parody of the New Orleans marching band routine.

A rehearsal band consisting of members of a new generation of British jazz musicians who, like many of their contemporaries in other fields, see no need to cultivate exclusivity as a component of their aesthetic outlook, Loose Tubes have resurrected the free-wheeling optimism that long evaporated from the British scene. Music simply pours out of them - and,

## Pouring out the music

in particular, out of their co-leader and keyboardist, the astonishing Django Bates.

Bates is a prominent contributor, with the double bassist Steve Berry and the trumpeter Chris Batchelor, to a repertoire of compositions drawing on such a variety of sources as to be audacious even for these self-consciously eclectic times. Batchelor has a stunning piece whose tone is set by a tarian skirl of trumpet and soprano saxophone, and another pitting Bates's garrulous melodic (a plastic device like a mouth-organ with a tiny keyboard) against greasy 12/8 blues patterns straight from the Louisiana bayou; Bates's "A Tribute to Jazz" ties together echoes of Beiderbecke's Wolverines and the slick routines of California in the fifties, staying just this side of Dada; Berry concentrates on multi-themed epics that ramble with the gentle gait of an old steam train.

Systems-music drones, misty ECM-style ballads, gospel shouts, dislocated funk and

clanking Latin vamps form a dazzling kaleidoscope, opening out to permit the individual contributions of musicians whose names will one day be better known: Eddie Parker (flute), John Paricelli (guitar), Mark Lockhard (saxophones) and Dave DeFries (trumpet) among them.

Django Bates, though, is a show on his own, delighting in modulating his synthesizer from a Jimmy Smith wail through a B-movie screech and an industrial-rock squeal to a ravishingly cool timbre reminiscent of George Zamfir's Balkan pan-pipes. What Bates plays, too, is usually as good as how he plays it, and his sensitivity to orchestral requirements is acute.

Thanks to a Musicians' Union subsidy, Loose Tubes are topping the bill at Scott's until Saturday. Anyone who does not believe that big-band jazz began with Glenn Miller and ended with Buddy Rich should make it their business to get along.

Richard Williams

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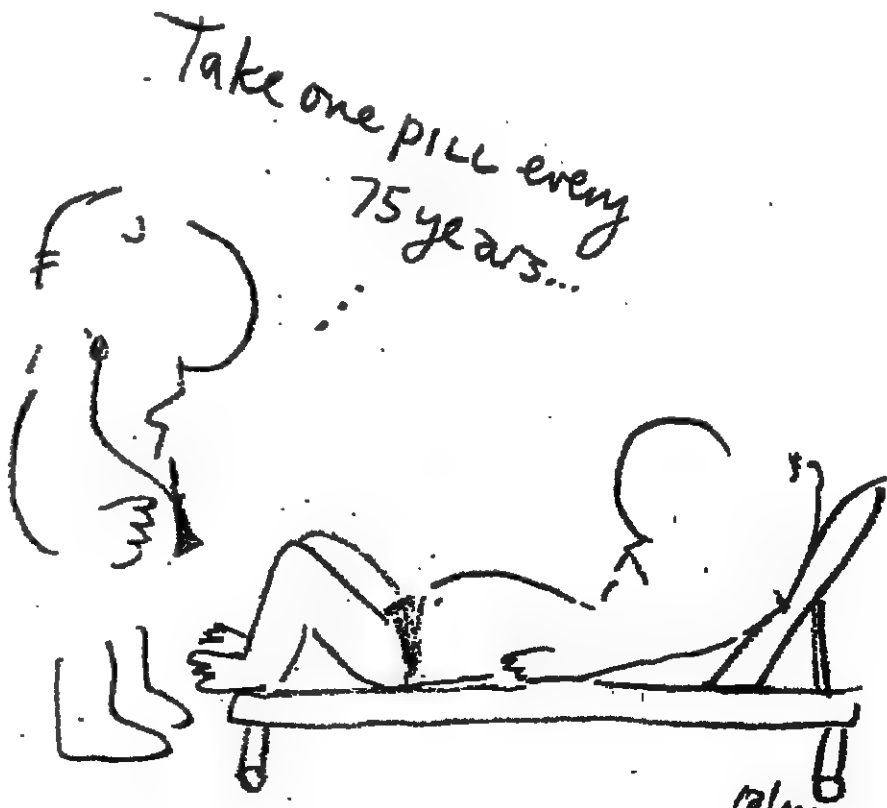
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Tom Watson as Jack in *In Time of Strife*

As drama the threat to its effect lies in the potential for it to slip into gloomy and heavy-handed naturalism, a threat avoided here thanks to David Hayman's lively direction of a strong cast. Tom Watson finds all Corrie's humour in Jack, the bitter, hardworn striker, as does Vincent Friel in his son, an endearingly recognizable tactless youth. The latter's squabbles with his sister, make also raise one serious question that has yet to be answered - what effect the strike might have had on the miners' children.

Geoff Rose's immense set states the scale of the pit working or not - in the miners' lives, flanking their living quarters with three huge tunnel ends which give Hayman an upper level to stage unseen tensions. This is a hit and miss technique, but it works beautifully at the end, where Hayman isolates individuals scarred by the strike on the upper level, so bringing out the spirit in Corrie's play that he has stressed all along; intense concern at the disintegration of



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May 15, 1985

## (SPECIAL REPORT)

AUSTRIA/1

# First freedom, then prosperity

The foreign ministers of Britain, France, the Soviet Union and the United States meet in Vienna today to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the treaty which restored full

sovereignty to Austria after the war. In this Special Report Richard Bassett looks back over the intervening years and assesses the current state of the country

May 15, 1955. A crowd of several hundred gathered outside the baroque Belvedere Palace in Vienna to see a small dark-suited man brandish a leather-bound document. Austria's state treaty, which the Austrian foreign minister, Dr Leopold Figl, held up to the cheering crowds below, had been signed that morning by the foreign ministers of the victorious powers.

After 10 years of occupation, Austria was to become independent. Within four months, the Russian, American, British and French troops in the country were to go, leaving behind a militarily neutral state.

Luckily for the Austrians, the Hungarian uprising of 1956 was still to come, and the Soviet Union, smarting from the failure of the Berlin blockade, was keen to gain propaganda points, first by patching up its quarrel with Yugoslavia and also by dropping its intransigent stand on Austrian independence.

The price Austria paid for the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops from its soil was, if politically small, economically daunting. It undertook to provide the Soviet Union for the next 10 years, with one million tons of oil a year from the lower Austrian oilfields, to deliver over the next six years goods to the value of \$150 million, and to pay "compensation" of \$2 million for the return of Austrian interests in the Danube Shipping Company.

Through the withdrawal of British, French and American troops in western and southern Austria, the Russians also gained the inestimable strategic advantage of splitting NATO into two. German and Italian forces were now divided by a neutral mountain barrier.

However, once these economic obligations had been faithfully and punctually discharged, the Austrian economy began to prosper and Europe

came to regard the country as a reliable business partner and a useful economic link between East and West.

The most impressive achievement of the postwar years was the country's unique social contract. Emerging during the late 1950s and implemented through a series of informal meetings between the chambers of commerce and the unions, this agreement has given Austria industrial relations which are the envy of the western world.

Though both the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and the Prague Spring of 1968 showed that Austria was firmly in the West's political camp and that its



Dr. Fred Sinowatz: Head of indecisive coalition

neutrality in no way inhibited a vigorous defence of human rights and generosity of asylum, foreign policy, with one exception, has rarely been energetic.

The one exception was the years during which Bruno Kreisky was Chancellor, from 1970 to 1983. He alone among postwar Austrian politicians saw the wider potential of Austria's unique position between East and West.

In 1981, he was able to negotiate between Arab states and Israel while, almost at the same time, inviting Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, for private talks in Vienna. The presence of their

Chancellor playing an active role in some of the most important issues of the day gratified the Austrians' need for some European identity. But Dr Kreisky's involvement in foreign affairs was seen increasingly as being at the expense of his domestic obligations.

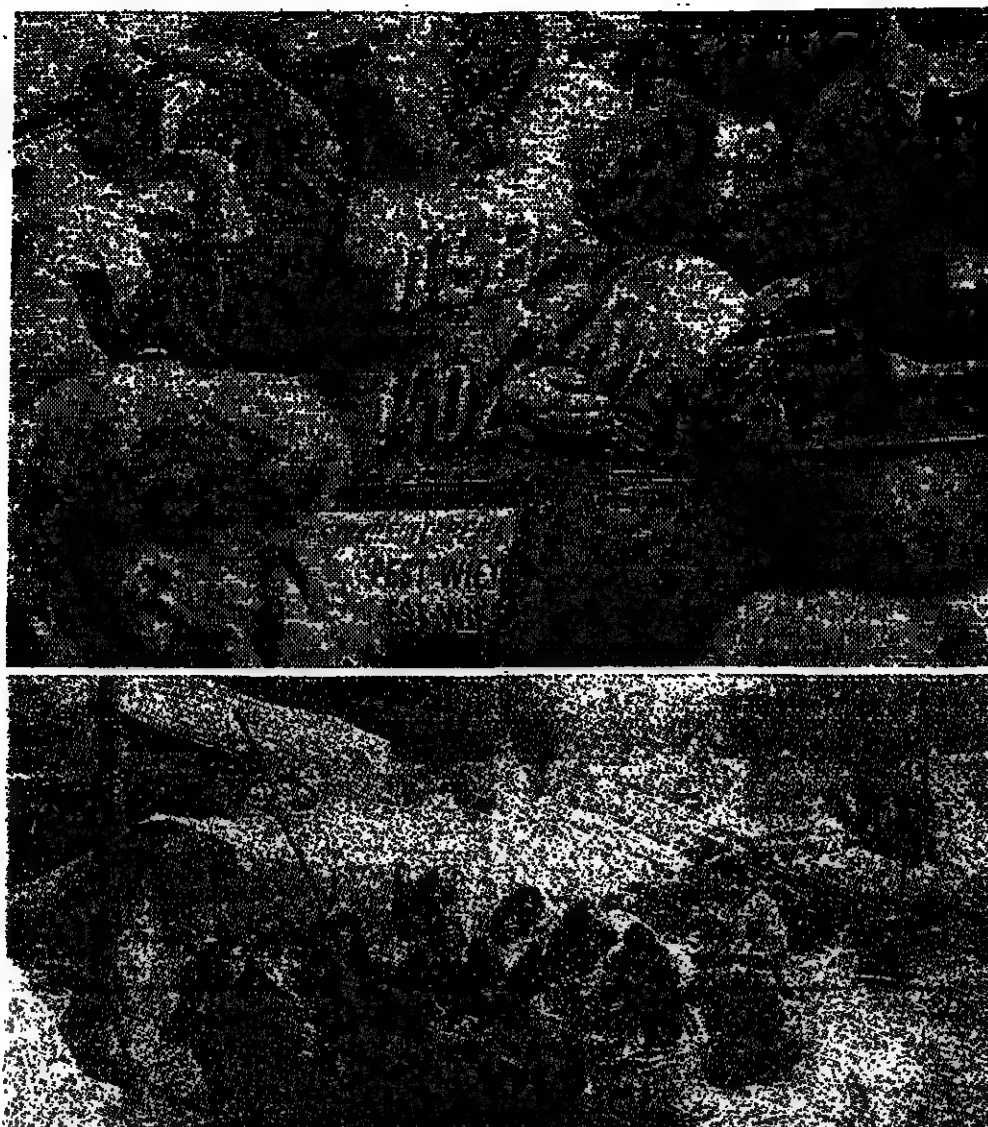
As Austria developed an economy heavily burdened by social services, with pensions the envy of the world, only tourism kept the national budget in the black and time and again Austrians began to feel that the government was crassly overspending on projects which would ultimately leave the country overburdened with debts.

A sudden outbreak of terrorism in the late 1970s, culminating in various Arab groups using Vienna to pay off old scores with each other, brought the Chancellor's policies into serious question.

In 1979, a referendum to decide whether Austria's £3 million nuclear power station at Zwentendorf on the Danube should be activated resulted in an embarrassing defeat for the Kreisky government. The Chancellor had earlier announced that he would resign if there was no vote in favour of nuclear power.

In the event the Chancellor did not resign and it was only in 1983, when the Socialist Party failed to gain an overall majority in the general election, that he finally hung up his hat. However, he did not bow out before his strategy for preserving the power of the Socialist Party had been implemented in the construction of a coalition, which, unlike those in the late 1950s and early 1960s, involved not the main opposition party, the conservative People's Party, but the small right-wing Freedom Party.

At the time, this may have seemed a sound proposition. No one had seen the Freedom Party in power and it was a safe assumption that it would easily



War and peace. Top: Austrian POWs return home in joy from Russian prison camps in 1955. Above: Demonstrators at a peace camp near Hainburg earlier this year

fit into the Socialist majority, which was far more experienced in office. By buying off the Freedom Party with three ministerial posts and the position of Vice-Chancellor for the party leader, Dr Norbert Steger, power could still be concentrated largely in Socialist hands under a new Chancellor, Dr Fred Sinowatz.

Dr Sinowatz, a smooth political operator adept at handling politicians behind the scenes, was the obvious, if unwilling, choice for this operation. His ability would ensure that the more undesirable elements of the Freedom Party, an unhappy amalgam of former Nazis, disillusioned students and liberals, could be kept away from major policy decisions.

What followed shattered this optimistic belief. Though bereft of any real policies of its own, the Freedom Party was able to act as a brake on almost everything the Socialists tried to do.

For a country prone to severe bouts of bureaucratic paralysis, the results were disastrous. When the Chancellor attempted to put forward a more energetic energy policy by introducing a motion into Parliament to activate Zwentendorf, his partners voted against him. When he attempted to clear part of the Danube forest for a hydro-electric power station, violent clashes between demonstrators and police forced him to defy his trade unions and shelve the schemes for a year.

The greatest embarrassment was still to come. Less than a month later, the young Herr Friedhelm Frischenschlager, a Freedom Party politician given the position of defence minister, infuriated world opinion by personally greeting a Nazi war criminal on his repatriation to Austria.

To the horror of many die-hard Socialists whose parents had been marched off to concentration camps by the Nazis, their party was forced to support the minister in a vote of confidence to preserve the coalition. These disturbing episodes, all of which have occurred in the last five months, highlight the acute dilemma of a government lacking decisiveness.

Fortunately for Austria, its economy is sufficiently wired to that of West Germany to survive such buffeting, but many Austrians are alarmed at the prospect of another three years with a crisis-prone coalition.

Only the inability of the opposition People's Party, led by Dr Alois Mock, to exploit the coalition's predicament preserves the Chancellor. Until that party produces a strong and gifted leader, the government will continue to weather the storms and, in the best traditions of Austrian politics, "muddle through".

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## Violence thwarts power plant plan

It would be difficult to find any area of Austrian politics more charged with emotion than that of energy. Cushioned by their social contract from industrial strife, Austrians have few opportunities to get politically overheated.

Imagine then the surprise and horror which arose from television scenes in January depicting baton-wielding police wrestling with thousands of demonstrators who had occupied a forest on the Danube to thwart government plans to build a hydro-electric power station.

Used to witnessing such scenes in England during the miners' strike, Austrians were rightly alarmed at the violence. Dr Sinowatz's government understandably, if rather irresolutely, postponed the plan for a year - a characteristic compromise which infuriated the environmentalists as it did their opponents.

The affair was a further blow to a coalition government which had inherited more than its fair share of energy dilemmas from the "golden" Kreisky years.

Chief among these is the mothballed nuclear power station at Zwentendorf further up the Danube, built in 1978 but unactivated since a referendum rejected nuclear power for Austria.

Attempts by the government to hold a new referendum on the issue have foundered through the intransigence of the junior partner in the coalition, the Freedom Party, which is committed to opposing nuclear energy.

Hainburg and Zwentendorf are not alone. Plans to build another power station in the Tyrol at Dorfglas are also floundering as a result of conservationist demands.

To a certain extent, Dr Sinowatz's government has been unlucky. No one a few years ago could have predicted the enormous popularity environmental issues could command in Austria. Hainburg proved dramatically that young Austrians, long considered politically apathetic, were susceptible to the romanticism of the "green" philosophy which a few years earlier had so deeply affected West German youth.

Carried on the crest of this popular wave is the young Green Party, which made such gains at the provincial Vorarlberg elections that the debating chamber of the provincial

parliament had to be redesigned to accommodate the new force.

The Greens' leader, the bearded and rascally Herr Kaspar Sima, lives a spartan existence, milking cows during Press conferences and addressing his parliament in the barely comprehensible dialect of his valley. Though a man of little political experience, Herr Sima's lifestyle is an inspiring example for young Austrians disillusioned with the portly, over-privileged image of most Austrian politicians.

Encouraging though this new idealism is, it cannot solve the dilemma of Austria's increasing energy needs. Though the conservationists, who count among their numbers royalty, Nobel prize-winners and several eminent scientists, believe that Austria is self-sufficient in energy, last year's figures reveal a disturbing increase in dependence on east European energy. Compared with 1983, energy imports from Poland were up 46 per cent, those from Hungary were up 65 per cent, while the Soviet Union had increased its energy export to Austria by 31 per cent.

### Simmering fury of the workers

Spokesmen for the energy industry also point out that although surpluses are generally available in the summer, hydro-electric power alone cannot supply the country's needs during the long winter. They see the failure of the government to act with any decision either over nuclear or hydro-electric power as optimistic folly.

If the energy bosses are unhappy at this, the reaction of their workforce, including the powerful trade unions whose members marched in tens of thousands in support of Hainburg last year, is one of simmering fury.

The government's retreat turned the unions into an omniculinary force rather than the all-pervasive pillar of Austria's renowned social contract. The unions expect the government to act decisively but on present showing Dr Sinowatz's cabinet is unlikely to have the courage to push through the construction of a power station or activate one already built.

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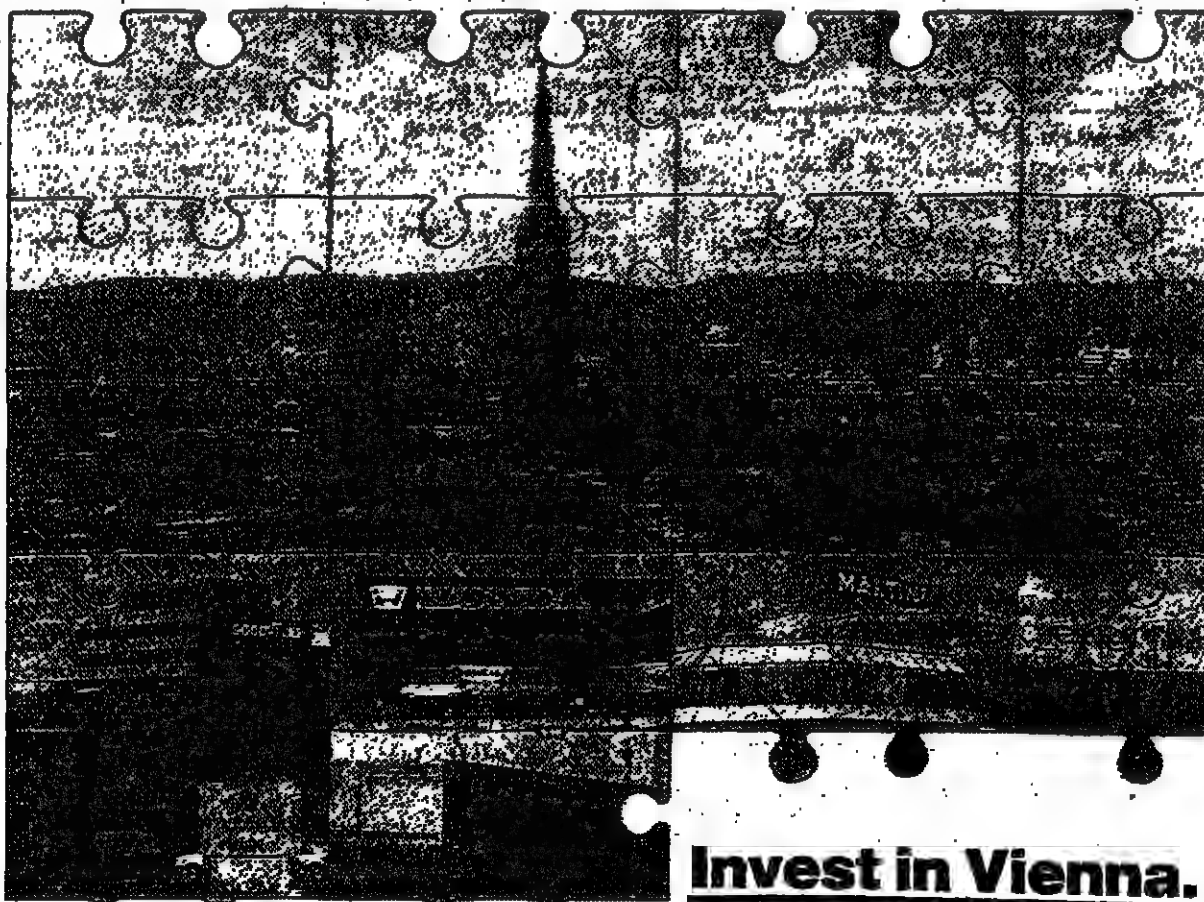
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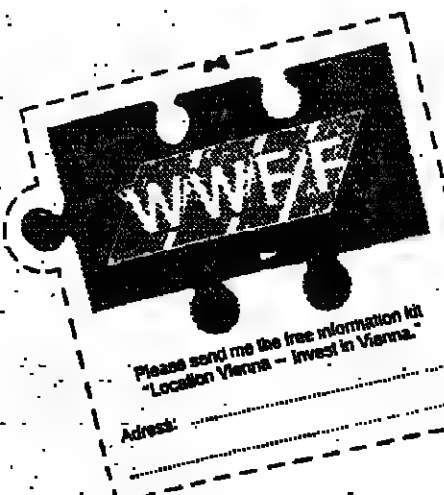
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# Why tourism is not always welcome

Few countries depend as much on tourism as Austria. Spending by the 15 million visitors who annually descend on the country, either for skiing or for music festivals, easily covers the annual balance of payments deficit.

Tourism, though in many ways extravagantly developed in Austria, is a fairly recent thing. Before 1914, there were only three books in English to guide tourists through the country, compared with over a hundred on Italy and nearly 50 on Switzerland.

After the First World War, the internal crises of an Austria menaced by its neighbours to the north and south meant that the country could not produce that calm perfection of service which is so much a quality of Swiss tourism. Austria became a familiar landmark on the mass tourist map only after the Second World War.

Until 1955, when the country was divided between the Allies, tourism could be encouraged only in the western and southern zones, which were in Nato hands, and this was done rather tentatively. However, when the armies withdrew, the full potential of the postwar playground was exploited - some would say all too rapidly - within the following five years.

Ski-lifts and chalets were constructed and villages which had had barely a few hundred inhabitants found their population multiplied fourfold and in some cases twentyfold. The tourist boom brought thousands of jobs and a permanent second economy in which farmers and agricultural workers regularly did secondary jobs involved with tourism during the season. But in many cases little attention was paid to the environment. The presence of the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck produced an Olympic village but did considerable damage to the relatively unspoilt environs of the city.

Outside the towns, the thousands of chairlifts, if welcome during the winter months, soon become eyesores during the summer, when most Austrians use the Alps for that most popular of recreations, walking.

The tons of litter left by skiers have had disastrous ecological effects which have been highlighted recently by environmentalists in a series of articles

entitled *Apocalypse in the Alps*. They point to glaciers which have become a muddy grey as a result of the 'ten million' skiers who take to the Tyrolean slopes each year, many of them with little respect for the mountains' appearance.

Tourist officials both within and outside the Tyrol admit that the pace of development after the last war was too fast and that mistakes were made.

As well as the environmental damage of mass tourism, there are also disturbing social effects. Professor Irwin Ringel, Austria's leading expert in this field, has noted a growing incidence of xenophobia in Austria since the 1950s.

## Insensitive planning in some resorts

Though noticeable in Vienna, this is happily still absent from St. Anton and Kitzbühel, where there is still something of that old world charm familiar to English skiers for decades. Bad Gastein and Bad Ischl, however, have both been rather neglected by planners and parts of their townscapes have suffered insensitive developments. Their clientele, though rich, has not restored these once renowned resorts to anything like their once fashionable picturesqueness.

Some politicians blame this decline partly on the heavily socialist nature of Austria's government since the war. Before the war, they say, Austria was a fashionable place where every educated European spent at least part of a summer vacation.

An exclusive and well-heeled set motored down past the great baroque abbeys every summer. These have long vanished to join the other great ghosts of

Austria's past. What remains is catered for by a service which, though still capable of attention and personal charm, is increasingly interested in the lower end of the market.

Only in one field does Austria still attract the rich, and that is shooting. In Styria and Lower Austria, visitors pay up to £800 a day to take advantage of the country's unique game laws, which have helped to preserve several rare species of animal almost extinct in other parts of central Europe.

Another traditional area of tourism in Austria is the 'cure', which, though more popular among Austrians than visitors, continues to play an important role in the country's tourist life.

The medical insurance of most Austrians allows them to take advantage of a variety of thermal spas. The health and fitness conscious Germans also flock to these places; the national tourist board estimates that one in every three Austrians and one in every seven Germans visits an Austrian spa for a fortnight every year.

The opening up of Austria's neighbour, Hungary, towards the west has begun to take its toll of this lucrative custom. The issue is a sensitive one in Austrian tourist circles, which have not only to compete with renowned thermal baths but also with the increasing numbers of tourists in the country who pass through Vienna rather than enjoy a longer stay there.

Though Austria and Hungary abolished mutual visa requirements in 1978/79, far more Austrians visit Hungary than vice-versa. And as long as Budapest continues to offer superlative cuisine at half the price of Vienna, the fall in the number of tourist nights in the Austrian capital will continue.

R B

## FOREIGN VISITORS TO AUSTRIA IN 1984

| Country of Origin | Arrivals   | Difference 1984/83 | Arrivals in % |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------|
| West Germany      | 8,274,471  | -200,581           | -2.4          |
| Holland           | 1,251,737  | 48,242             | 4.0           |
| United States     | 931,505    | 244,389            | 35.6          |
| Britain           | 821,868    | 85,480             | 8.8           |
| France            | 639,070    | 147,254            | 29.9          |
| Italy             | 640,344    | 100,165            | 24.5          |
| Switzerland       | 475,978    | 32,122             | 7.2           |
| Belgium/Lux'bourg | 350,720    | 6,045              | 1.8           |
| Sweden            | 259,634    | 8,973              | 4.0           |
| Hungary           | 218,619    | 42,829             | 24.4          |
| Total             | 15,110,233 | 628,702            | 4.3           |

Source: Central Statistical Office, Vienna

The real postwar miracle, they say, took place in Austria, not West Germany. You would expect the hard-working Germans to be successful, but the easy-going, charming Austrians? The truth is that the easy charm is associated only with Vienna. In the provinces, Austrians workers are every bit as industrious as their German neighbours.

Growth over the last three years has outpaced the average in western Europe. The unemployment rate, 4.5 per cent in 1983 and 1984, is one of the lowest in the industrial West, and inflation is running back below four per cent, after tax increases in 1984 pushed it well above West German levels, threatening Austria's traditional price stability.

Several obstinate problems spoil this picture, however.

● Energy policy is drifting, with environmental groups and parts of the opposition People's Party (ÖVP) blocking nuclear power and a hydroelectric power scheme on the Danube.

● Higher energy imports last year pushed the current-account balance of payments back into the red after two years of surplus.

● Unemployment in depressed areas such as the eastern province of Burgenland and the steel towns of Styria is closer to British levels than the enviable national average.

● Heavy budget deficits are limiting the government's room for economic manoeuvre. Fiscal stimulus is virtually ruled out for the next few years by Dr

Franz Vranitzky, the finance minister.

The secret of Austria's success lies probably in its social partnership system, under which all important economic matters are discussed with representatives of workers and employers. Under the system, the government guarantees full employment, the unions keep wage demands down, and employers keep prices down.

Another element in Austria's success is the nationalized sector, relatively the largest in a western state, and which includes all the biggest industrial firms. This gives the government a huge area of industry in which it can intervene directly in carrying out its economic policies.

The price of social partnership is heavy social expenditure, offering little scope for cuts. The baroque structure of

Austrian social welfare is in urgent need of reform. In common with several other west European states, there will soon be too many old people drawing pensions for the system to operate on the contributions of those in work.

Social partnership means that all political parties are committed to a full employment policy, and it is difficult for large companies to make workers redundant. This slows down restructuring, as manpower cuts can often occur only through natural wastage.

The Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) handed out the now traditional praise in its annual survey of Austria issued in March. But it warned that major and difficult measures were needed to consolidate the budget, and called for faster restructuring.

Precisely because nationalized industries are owned by the government, it has been more

than usually hard to lay off workers in this sector. Restructuring has been slower and more painful, and losses more stubborn, than elsewhere in the Austrian economy.

Firms owned by the state holding company, Österreichische Industrieverwaltungs-AG (OIA), which include Austria's biggest company, the steel and engineering group Voest-Alpine, account for 17 per cent of industrial employment. The figure rises to over a quarter if the industrial holdings of state-owned banks are included. Most of OIA's subsidiaries are now either profitable or breaking even.

Voest is the notable exception after the government agreed to a 16.6 billion schilling (about £530 million) three-year restructuring package for OIA in 1983.

Voest could yet prove a restructuring success story. It has begun to diversify out of steel smelting into micro-electronics, and last year won a 500 million Deutschmark (about £129 million) order from IBM (the biggest it has ever awarded in Europe) to supply multi-layer circuit boards.

Austria regularly turns in a deficit on trade, but in a good year invisibles such as tourism can produce a current account surplus. 1984 was not one of those good years, despite a 10 per cent surge in exports, as imports rose more than expected, with a build-up of energy stocks.

Trade with eastern Europe,

which accounts for about 12 per cent of the total, is a mixed blessing.

The payments difficulties of Comecon states have meant that it is often the Austrian government, through its export credit agencies, that pays for Austrian exports. With its main Comecon trading partner, the Soviet Union, Austria has a trade deficit, so payments are not a problem. Moscow is a major supplier of energy, taking turn-key factories, ships, and other engineering products in exchange.

The difficulties of doing business with the cash-strapped east Europeans have enabled Austria to develop great expertise in counter trade and other forms of barter, which can pay off today in the Third World as well as the Soviet bloc. Transit trade accounts for nearly a third of Austrian imports and a quarter of exports.

Austria's role in East-West trade has often embittered relations with Washington, which fears that Nato restrictions on the export of strategically sensitive high technology to the Soviet bloc can be circumvented in Austria.

Without wanting to upset its valuable trading ties with the Soviet bloc, the Austrian government has now passed a law under which Austrian companies that break the re-export provisions of import or licensing contracts can be fined.

A Special Correspondent



Austria in perspective: An old woman enjoys an ice-cream in Vienna, and Salzburg, one of the great musical cities

## A new gloss for the tarnished miracle

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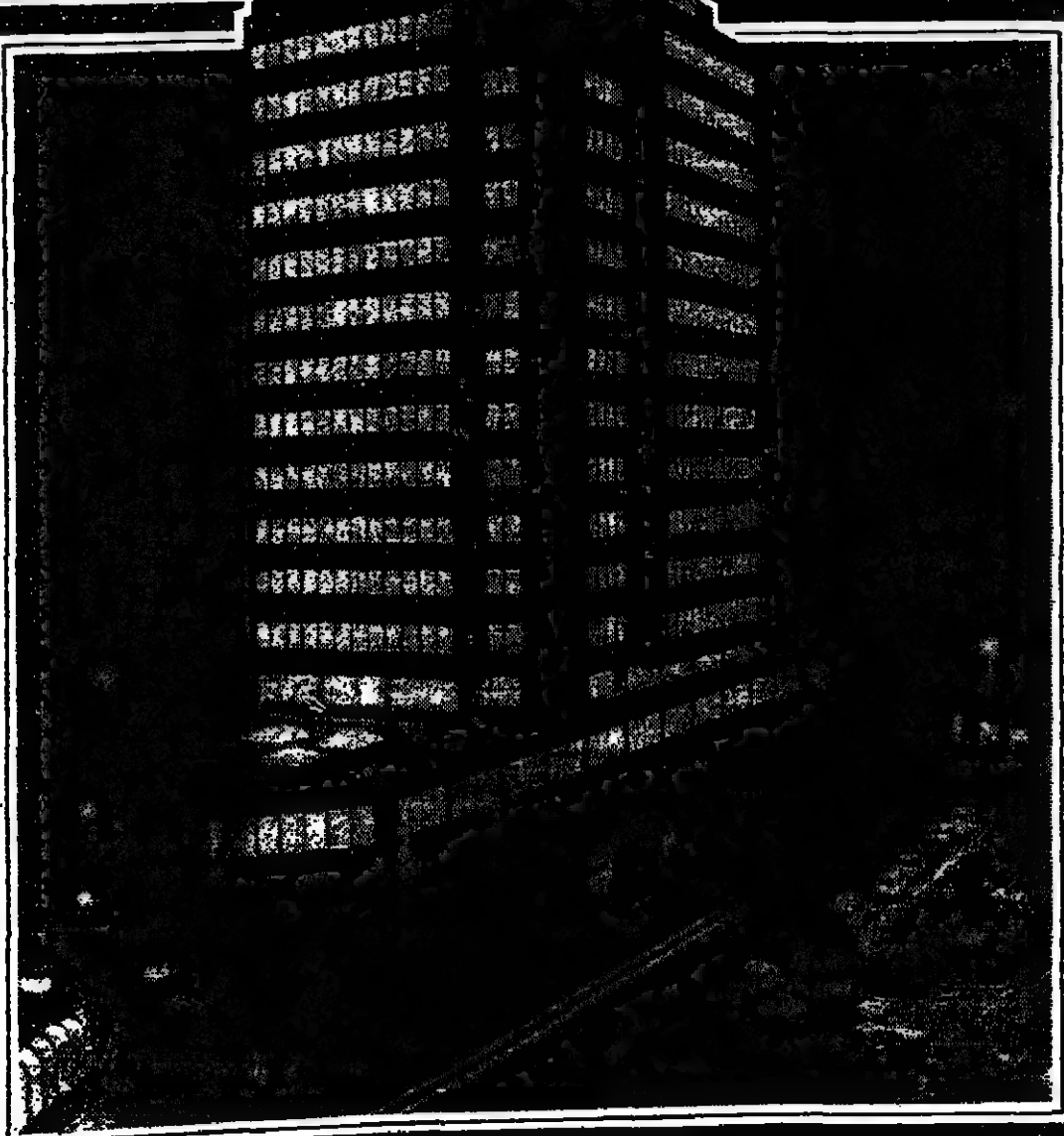
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Trade with eastern Europe,

You can always judge a good building by the companies it keeps.

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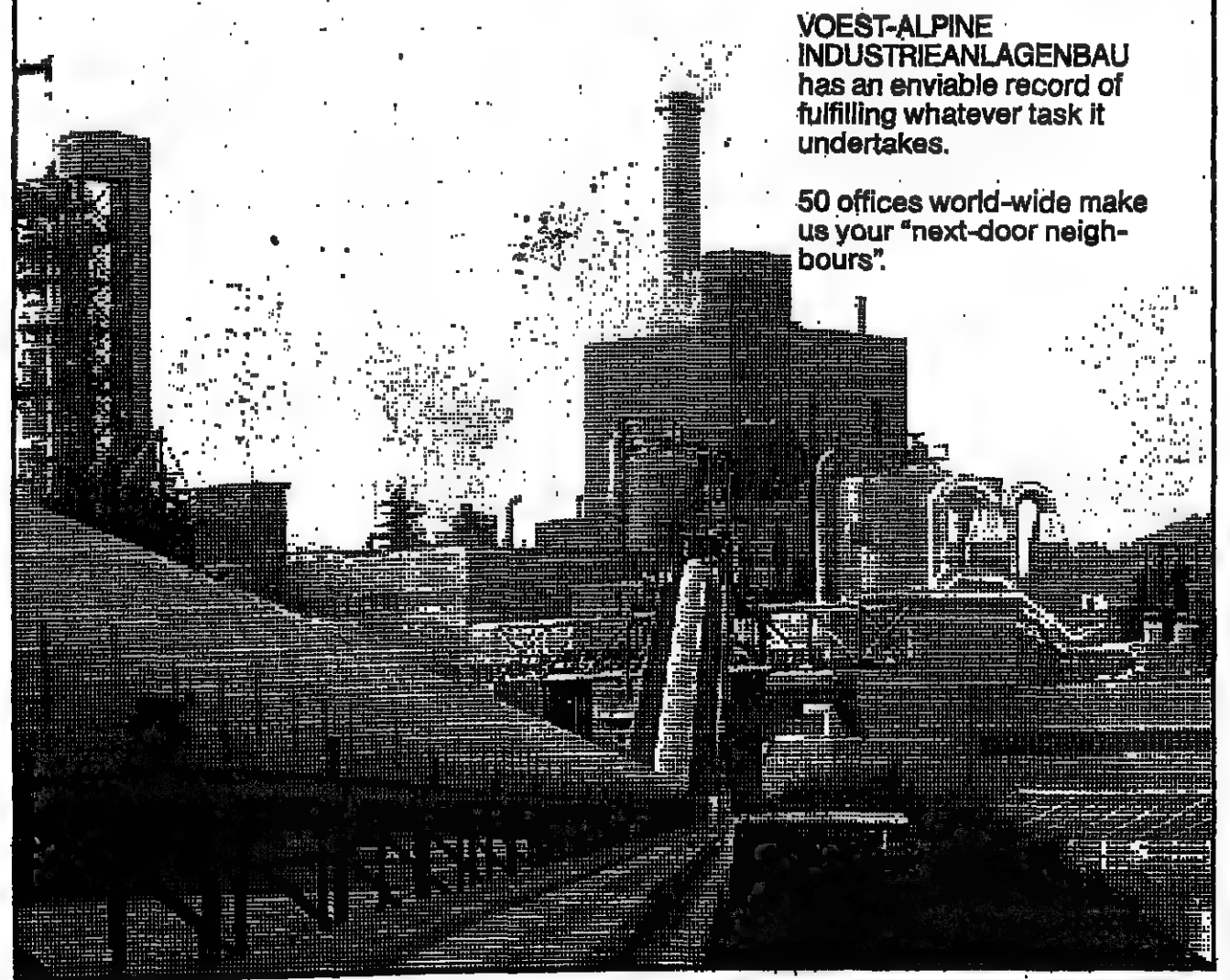


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# FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Land Securities brings a touch of realism

Mark Twain traded land - he had it on good authority that no one was making any more. But would he have bought Land Securities last week, when punters plunged in ahead of yesterday's 1984/85 results, goaded by talk of a juicy asset revaluation. City rents have boomed this year. Land Securities has nearly a third of its £2 billion-plus property portfolio invested in the Square Mile. Some dealers were hoping for as much as a 12 per cent gain, taking the asset value per share up to 420p.

They were disappointed. The figure which emerged - 401p - was at the bottom end of brokers' estimates. The shares which had been pushed to 310p, fell back immediately to 297p.

Cool analysts claim that, if anything, the "realism" of the new asset value figure is welcome. The property market they believe, has got away from itself in terms of discounted future values. Land Secs figure simply underlines the fact that reduced institutional cash flows into the property market have reduced the chances of automatic upgrades on the weight of money argument. The market has also forgotten that institutions, not property companies, have the best portfolios.

Although Land Securities may have done the property sector as a whole a service by its down-beat valuation, it still has question marks of its own. Profits for the year to March 31 are a convenient starting point. A pretax figure of £96 million, up 14 per cent, is far better than the market expected. A dividend rise of 12 per cent to 8.15p is also heartening.

Shareholders in other words are being rewarded quite handsomely for the 1981 convertible rights issue which raised £105 million, and which helped to finance the current refurbishment programme. Last year, the group redeveloped nearly one million square feet of office space. Profits this year might leap to around £110 million.

These figures, it should be emphasized, are real figures, in so far as Land Securities' conservative accounting does not include capitalizing interest on development programmes. Nevertheless, the bulk of the cash raised through the rights issue, has now been spent. Land Securities is down to the last £25 million.

The market has been awash with rumours for some months that the group stood close to the top of the debenture queue, but pulled out when interest rates shot up to 14 per cent. Last night the chairman, Peter Hunt, agreed that the group was keeping a close eye on the debenture market as a source of fresh capital.

The board would probably be happy to make a sizeable issue, but only if the terms were right. That really means if interest rates start to fall.

## Price Waterhouse tops the beauty parade

While the big corporate finance names in the merchant banks are busy preparing to pitch for the next record-breaking Government share sale, the flotation of British Gas, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Transport Secretary, has been pursuing his own characteristically idiosyncratic approach in the run-up to the privatization of another industry, buses. On Monday Mr Ridley quietly announced that he had appointed Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm, to advise him on the planned break-up and sale of the National Bus Company.

But Mr Ridley is nothing if not a radical. The decision to appoint Price Waterhouse is bound to be seen as something of a rebuff for the merchant banks, who have found in privatization one of their most valuable sources of corporate finance business over the last four years. Several merchant banks were in the "beauty parade" for the National Bus business, but were rejected. It is noticeable that National Bus themselves have appointed a Barclays Merchant Bank to act for them in preparing for privatization. Mr Ridley however is known to take the view that there is no reason why the banks should have a monopoly of the privatization fees, and has now acted accordingly.

The way that Mr Ridley has decided to go about privatizing National Bus makes this decision more logical than it might at first appear. Almost alone among ministers faced with saleable industries, he is sticking to his belief that competition should come before sale proceeds. He is insisting that National Bus should be broken up into several component businesses rather than sold as an integral unit, as happened with British Telecom and is due to happen also with British Gas. It is not so much therefore a case of preparing and underwriting a mammoth stock market issue as preparing adequate corporate and capital structures for the myriad of local bus companies that Mr Ridley wants to see rising Phoenix-like from the ashes of the present overregulated industry. He has also made it clear that he would like to see employees having the chance to buy their own companies wherever possible.

## A minus one at Lloyd's

Ian Davison, chief executive of Lloyd's, was in no doubt yesterday that the insurance market would sail through the latest wave of appalling underwriting losses with its central structure undamaged.

"Our tackle is in order and I am confident we will be able to handle it", he said. He pointed out that the Lloyd's central fund, which protects the insured, had risen from £134 million to £167.2 million at the end of 1984, of which £7 million was earmarked for previous years' defaults. Lloyd's assets stood at £145 million and, most important, the deposits it held in trust for underwriting names reached £1.47 billion.

Lloyd's can of course only employ the deposits, which amount to 25 per cent of the business names can write; if names fail to make good their losses by the solvency deadline. Several Richard Beckett syndicate names are threatening to do just that.

Mr Davison is probably right when he says a combination of deposits held at Lloyd's, names' individual stop-loss policies and profits from their other, less stricken syndicates, mean most names can and will meet their obligations, leaving the central fund largely unscathed.

Whether the shock horror headlines of

the past few weeks deter prospective names, at a time when Lloyd's is anxious to expand capacity, remains to be seen. The scandals of misappropriated money had no such effect. This year, Lloyd's capacity, at £8.7 billion, up a record 29 per cent, and the flow of new names shows no sign of abating. A similar increase in capacity is expected next year.

The recent staggering losses have highlighted two main issues. First some names are in the wrong type of investment. Not all are rich and some are facing personal ruin. Any new name should think long and hard about the meaning of unlimited liability.

Second, names have been kept woefully ignorant of what their managing agents have been up to. Rules introduced in the past two years under the Davison regime to improve accounting practices, to improve accountability and to improve the calibre of underwriting agents should go a long way to ridding Lloyd's of this particular blight.

The reforming goes on. Yesterday Mr Davison announced that Lloyd's brokers were to be pulled into the net. Four working parties will produce a consultative document on the regulation of brokers, which should result in new Lloyd's bylaws by next spring.

## Firms face tougher tax regime

By Ian Griffiths

The Inland Revenue has launched a new corporation tax form for companies to pave the way for a much harsher tax compliance regime which is expected in next year's Budget.

The new form, the corporation tax working sheet, will be issued in the autumn in expectation of legislation based on the findings of the Keith Committee report on Revenue enforcement powers.

The content of the legislation is under discussion, but it is expected to improve efficiency and clamp down on companies which are slack in their dealings with the Revenue.

The working sheet will not have statutory backing, but its contents are expected to be incorporated into an official form which will encompass the new legislation.

The present official form, the CT 1, is widely discredited and rarely used by companies and the need for a replacement is recognised by the Revenue.

The new form has been devised by the Revenue in consultation with the accountancy profession and the CBI.

## Restaurateurs seek £9m

Kennedy Brookes, best known for its Wheelers and Mario and Franco restaurant chains, is raising £9.65 million from its shareholders to expand its hotel business. Cliff Feltham writes.

The company has four country hotels with a total of

120 bedrooms. "This is far too little and we want to expand", the chairman, Mr Michael Golder, said.

The rights issue involves the issue of £7.826 worth of 64 per cent loan stock for every 20 ordinary shares.

## Markheath loss of £1.65m on office complex

By Our Commercial Property Correspondent

Markheath Securities, the property trading company, is asking its shareholders to come up with £7.3 million by way of a one for one rights issue at 50p per share. The object is to allow the company to establish an investment portfolio of three properties valued at £11.67 million.

The company also announced that its office development in Stratford, east London, has lost it £1.65 million, with a pretax loss of £2.39 million for the year ended December 1984.

The company admits that the Stratford development, still under construction, has been sold to Norwich Union at a 6.5 per cent yield and leased back to Markheath at £7.50 a sq ft, was a mistake.

Mr Paul Bobroff, Markheath's chairman and managing director and chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc, says that the company misjudged the situation in Stratford in 1981 but that it has never lost money on any of its other schemes.

The company is forecasting profits of £1.4 million at March 31 next year with rental income contributing £300,000 and development profit at £1.1 million. Markheath hopes to reduce its gearing ratio to 27 per cent following the rights issue.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### STOCK MARKETS

|              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| FT Ind Ord   | 10123.3 (-4.6)    |
| FT-All Share | 637.44 (-2.40)    |
| FT Govt Sec  | 80.61 (unchanged) |
| FT-SE 100    | 1326.5 (-8.5)     |
| Bargains     | 29.361            |
| Dataseam USM | 112.15 (+0.49)    |
| New York     | 1280.36 (+2.87)   |
| Dow Jones    | 12504.20 (-37.33) |
| Hong Kong    | 1815.00 (-13.29)  |
| Amsterdam    | 207.8 (-1.2)      |
| Sydney: AO   | 898.8 (+0.5)      |
| Frankfurt    | 1283.8 (+12.4)    |
| Brussels     | 228.27 (+4.30)    |
| General      | 220.7 (+0.5)      |
| Paris: CAC   | 353.90 (-0.40)    |
| Zurich       |                   |
| SKA General  |                   |

### GOLD

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| London fixing             | \$324.75 - \$325.50 |
| close \$326.75 - \$327.25 | \$325.50            |
| New York                  | \$326.90            |
| Comex (latest)            | \$326.90            |

### MAIN PRICE CHANGES

|                 |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| RISES:          |         |
| Harold Ingram   | 130 +30 |
| Lyle Shipping   | 14 +2   |
| Brown & Jackson | 15 +2   |
| Ryan Int        | 19 +2   |
| Pict Petroleum  | 100 +17 |
| Cooper Inds     | 194 +1  |
| Sumie Clothes   | 50 +4   |
| M&G Group Hldgs | 825 +50 |
| Metals Sciences | 13 +1   |
| WW Group        | 175 +10 |
| Peters Stores   | 70 +4   |
| Fogarty         | 30 +5   |
| A. F. Bulgin    | 37 +2   |
| Star Computer   | 58 +3   |

### FALLS

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| CIFER            | 10 -3   |
| Muirhead         | 150 -36 |
| Markheath        | 58 -13  |
| Intervallor Vtd  | 10 -1   |
| Humberstone Elec | 10 -1   |
| Alphametric      | 126 -12 |
| Minet Hldgs      | 218 -16 |
| Sangers          | 70 -5   |
| Debenhams        | 307 -21 |
| Smith St Aubyn   | 58 -4   |

### CURRENCIES

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| London:                 |  |
| \$: \$1.2727 (+0.0190)  |  |
| DM: \$3.8774 (+0.0240)  |  |
| Sfr: \$3.2840 (+0.0237) |  |
| FF: \$11.8368 (+0.0765) |  |
| Yen: \$117.88 (+2.58)   |  |
| 2 Index: 79.2 (+0.5)    |  |
| New York:               |  |
| £: £1.2705              |  |
| DM: \$3.0540            |  |
| \$ Index: 144.9 (-1.0)  |  |

### INTEREST RATES

|                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| London:                               |  |
| Bank Base: 12% - 12 1/2%              |  |
| 3-month interbank: 12% - 12 1/2%      |  |
| 3-month eligible bills                |  |
| buying rate: 12% - 12 1/2%            |  |
| US:                                   |  |
| Prime Rate: 10.5%                     |  |
| Federal Funds: 7 1/2%                 |  |
| 3-month Treasury Bills: 7.50% - 7.58% |  |
| Long bond: 10 1/2% - 10 3/4%          |  |

# P&O company plans Olympia expansion ready for 1990s

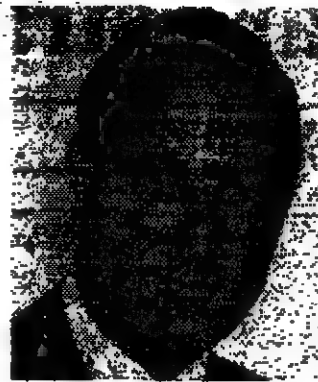
By Judith Huxley  
Commercial Property Correspondent

Earls Court and Olympia, the exhibition hall company which is part of Sir Jeffrey Sterling's P&O Group, plans to add 130,000 sq ft of space to its Earls Court centre. The scheme is part of large expansion plans designed to cope with exhibition needs in the 1990s.

Proposals are taking shape to build a new hall on the lines of Crystal Palace at the back of Earls Court site in west London. There would also be a 300 per cent increase in car parking at the site on a 6.7 acre site at Seagrave Road which the company bought some time ago for £3.4 million.

A planning application will shortly be put to Kensington and Chelsea Council, although the development will not be built until demand from the exhibition business requires more space.

With the new hall and the



Sir Jeffrey Sterling: money will come through P&O

recently refurbished spaces at Olympia, London's exhibition centre can rival the size of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham at just over 1 million sq ft.

Earls Court and Olympia, unlike the other exhibition centres in the country, is privately-owned and funded and, as such, the money for the

planned expansion will have to come through the P&O Group. Mr Tim Harris, the chairman and managing director of Earls Court and Olympia, said the cost of the new hall would be in line with that estimated for the NEC's new space. The NEC put a figure of £26 million on building the 200,000 sq ft first phase of its planned expansion at the Birmingham exhibition centre which would double its size.

The NEC expansion will be paid for from public funds. A total of £200 million has been put forward as the amount needed to increase space at Birmingham and provide a new hotel, motel and the necessary infrastructure.

Birmingham City Council and the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce originally put up finance for the NEC with £50 million coming from the West Midlands County Council.

Earls Court and Olympia has already spent more than £20 million on modernizing its halls since 1979 and with the

exception of a £5 million loan from the Greater London Council, has found the money from its own resources.

The company recognizes the need to capitalize on the advantages that its situation in west London, can offer visitors. The expansion plans, allied with improved access and parking, will help it meet the competition which is coming from other exhibition halls and ideas still in the pipeline.

A new exhibition and conference complex in London's Docklands has been mooted as a way of regenerating part of the idle docks. However, large-scale investment in infrastructure will be needed to bring visitors into the area.

The building of the rapid transit railway in docklands would help but there is still the need to complete road access to the area.

A large exhibition complex, is also planned for redundant dockland in Glasgow, so competition is increasing.

## Aran acts to snatch Petrolex

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

Aran Energy, the Dublin independent oil company, has snatched control of the British independent, Petrolex, from under the nose of Saxon Oil which itself had topped a bid from Clyde Petroleum.

Saxon's previously agreed bid closed yesterday, the company has until 9.30 this morning to decide if it will increase its offer. That is unlikely as Aran is claiming to have assurances for more than 50 per cent of Petrolex and the price Aran is offering is described as "too high" by several oil industry analysts.

Aran's bid values Petrolex at £15.8 million. Saxon had offered £13.4 million compared with the original bid from Clyde Petroleum of £11.7 million.

Under the takeover arrangements the Petrolex management, headed by Mr Jim Lindars and including Lord Ezra, the former National Coal Board chairman, will remain in London, while Aran's managing director, Mr Michael Whelan, will run the expanded company from Dublin.

The takeover gives Aran the tax advantage of a share in the production of the BP Forties field, acquired by Petrolex, to offset against North Sea exploration costs.

Petrolex shares rose yesterday by 5p to 89p compared with the Aran offer of 98.7p. Aran's shares dropped 4p to 39p on news that Aran is to raise £11.2 million to finance the takeover.

## Fed troubleshooters move in to halt new run on savings

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The United States Federal Reserve Board sent 350 banking examiners into the state of Maryland yesterday to prevent a run on deposits at two large savings associations from spreading to 100 other privately insured institutions.

Federal authorities are anxious to prevent a crisis similar to that of March, which forced the closure of 71 state-insured associations in Ohio.

Bank examiners are conducting audits of the state-insured savings and loans with the aim of helping them to qualify for federal insurance and loans from the central banking system.

In addition, federal authorities hope to calm public fears

over the soundness of the state insurance system to prevent deposit runs in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Pennsylvania, which have private deposit insurance.

The Maryland deposit run began slowly last Thursday with news of problems at Old Court Savings and Loan Association. By Friday, long queues had begun to form and telephones were deluged with calls from anxious depositors. The run continued on Saturday, with angry depositors waiting for up to four hours for their money.

Officials estimated that as much as \$50 million was withdrawn from the \$670 million institution.

Over the weekend after

falling to find a buyer for Old Court Mr Stephen Sachs, the state attorney-general, placed it under state conservatorship. This allows the state to protect the association's assets and to limit withdrawals.

At the same time, problems developed at another large institution, Morris Commercial Savings and Loan Association of Baltimore, which voluntarily placed itself under state conservatorship late on Monday when a deposit run developed.

The implications of the deposit run became clear late on Monday when Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, moved to calm public fears by pledging the board's full support.

## Boardroom war over Phoenix

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Phoenix Timber is under siege from a group of businessmen who have joined with a Phoenix director to try to take control despite having fewer than a third of the shares. Mr Dennis Cook, the Phoenix chairman, is determined to fight the move and is considering legal action.

The consortium is requesting an extraordinary general meeting of the company at which it intends to vote its representatives into a majority on the board.

Phoenix, with a market value of around £4 million, has only

four directors. Mr Michael Hermann, who speaks for the largest shareholding, is the one who has joined with the consortium.

Phoenix has suffered from the continuing problems of the timber industry and its figures for the half year to September showed a fall of £100,000 to pretax profits of £427,000.

But the company's timber preservation business is successful and it has some valuable land. Net assets are £2.2 million against a market price of 142p.

In March last year the company's founder, Mr Alexander Gourvitch, died and Mr Hermann apparently took over as trustee for the stake of around 34 per cent which is held for two of Mr Gourvitch's relations. Since then a group of northern businessmen using the name Equity & Share have built up a stake of more than 10 per cent and in March they announced that they were acting in concert with three London businessmen, Mr Geoffrey Hoffmann, Mr David Edelmann and Mr Michael Teacher, a partner in the financial consultants, Pointon

York.

## IN BRIEF

### Pound rises 1.9 cents

A rise in US retail sales failed to boost the dollar yesterday. The pound benefited from continued dollar weakness, rising by 1.9 cents to \$1.2727. Later in New York, the pound was trading at \$1.2705.

The Commerce Department reported that retail sales rose by 0.9 per cent last month to a seasonally adjusted \$112.23 billion. The fall in March, previously estimated at 1.9 per cent, was revised to a drop of 0.7 per cent.

Despite the encouraging figures, which could be an indicator of a stronger second-quarter performance for the American economy, the dollar remained unsettled by the banking problems in Maryland and the prospect of an early cut in the Federal Reserve's discount rate.

Against the mark, the dollar closed in London at DM3.0485, down 2.5 pence on the day

### Sears up £16m

Sears Holdings, the Selfridges to Debenhams group, has increased pretax profits for the year to January 31 to £175.3 million, up from £159.1 million. Turnover rose to £2,019 million from £1,839 million. A final dividend of 2.2p makes 3p for the year, against 2.5p last time. *Tempos, 23*

### Losses at GA

General Accident reported an increase in first-quarter pretax losses to £18 million from £16.5 million over the same period last year. Its shares rose 3p to 616p. High weather losses and a rise in the number of motor claims hit the company's performance. *Tempos, page 23*

### Muirhead move

The board of the electrical company Muirhead is recommending shareholders to accept the takeover offer from the RHP Group. The shares fell from 196p to 160p, just short of the cash alternative to the offer, on the change of mind. *Tempos, page 23*

### Bid recount

Peck Holdings had secured 48.99 per cent of Energy Services & Electronics by the closing date yesterday and a recount was requested. If no change emerges the bid will lapse. ESE's shares price dropped 3p to 91p on the close. Peck, a Shell company controlled by the South African financiers, Mr Julian Askin and Mr Hugo Biermann, was unchanged at 27p.

### Offer extended

The offer by Trafalgar House for Haden has been extended to May 28. Acceptances have been for 19,045 ordinary shares, giving Trafalgar 5.12 per cent of Haden's issued share capital.

# Land Securities

Abridged summary of Results for the Year ended 31st March, 1985

|  | 1984   | 1985   | Increase |
|--|--------|--------|----------|
|  | £m     | £m     | %        |
| Total income   | 148.4  | 137.7  | 7.8      |
| made up of   |        |        |          |
| Rental income  | 132.1  | 116.1  |          |
| Service charges and other recoveries                               | 12.2   | 12.6   |          |
| Income from short term deposits                                    | 4.1    | 9.0    |          |
| Net rents and interest receivable                                  | 114.9  | 103.7  | 10.8     |
| Income on ordinary activities before taxation                      | 95.6   | 84.0   | 13.8     |
| Taxation   | 36.6   | 33.3   |          |
| Income available for distribution                                  | 59.0   | 50.7   | 16.4     |
| Dividends per share paid (2.6p) and proposed (5.55p); 1984: 7.267p | 41.0   | 36.0   |          |
| Earnings per share   | 11.72p | 10.23p | 14.6     |
| Dividend cover - times   | 1.44   | 1.41   |          |

The Knight Frank & Rutley valuation of the portfolio as at 31st March, 1985, in which each property was valued individually and in its present state, totalled £2,335.7m, an increase of £147.3m over the valuation at the previous year end. Taking into account expenditure on properties, £69.4m, and the aggregate book value of properties sold, £24.9m, during the period, the surplus on revaluation was £102.8m, an increase of 4.6% (1984: 6.6%).

Having included the valuation in the Accounts at 31st March, 1985 and without adjusting for any taxation payable in the event of properties being sold, the Consolidated net assets of the Group at that date amounted to £2,016.5m, on which basis the net asset value per share is 401p.

In last year's Directors' Report reference was made to the fact that over 1 million sq. ft. of air-conditioned office space in the City, West End and Victoria was in the process of being redeveloped or refurbished. By the end of March 1985, 912,000 sq. ft. of this space had been completed or virtually completed, of which 852,000 sq. ft. had been let or the terms for letting agreed and 60,000 sq. ft. completed and not let. The balance, 156,000 sq. ft., is not due for completion until later this year or next year.

At 31st March, 1985 Group short term funds amounted to £25.1m and agreed realisations of property, for which contracts had not yet been exchanged, aggregated £9.4m. At that date capital commitments, including expenditure phased over periods of up to two years to complete developments, totalled £46.1m. The bank facilities available to the Group have been increased to £50m.

The full Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year containing an unqualified Report by the Auditors, a detailed property portfolio review and a list of the Group's major property holdings are due to be distributed to Shareholders on 30th May, 1985. Non-shareholders who would like a copy are requested to write to The Secretary:-

LAND SECURITIES PLC Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT







## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Indexes fall from the heights as profit-takers move in

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

For 90 minutes yesterday shares were hovering at yet another new peak. But the effort proved too much — the market started suffering from vertigo, one dealer said.

Sellers moved in and prices skidded lower in active trading. The FT-SE share index, measuring 100 blue chips, came back from a best ever 1,335.7 points to show a 10 points fall at one time. It closed down 6.5 points at 1,329.2 points.

The more popular but much more narrowly based FT 30 share index, ended 4.6 points down at 1,012.3 points.

British Aerospace was again a large influence. The success of the Government's share sale fuelled the markets progress on Friday and Monday. Yesterday, dealings started in the new party paid shares. They opened at 242p and in often hectic two day business — there were suggestions of Japanese buying interest — closed at 245p. Issue price was 200p.

Griffiths shares gained 2p to 208p as the company's management pay visits in the City. One broker, Wood, Mackenzie, has upped its profits forecast by £500,000 to £14 million after a recent meeting, and rates the stock a "strong buy". The direct mail business is growing by about 45 per cent, and excellent half-time results are expected.

The former BAe shares were also active, finishing 18p lower at 418p.

Debenhams, the stores group which has recorded heavy progress on takeover speculation since it disclosed its figures last week, fell back sharply as it appeared to some, the bid action had started without an offer being made.

The Debenhams price tumbled when the Burton Group, regarded as one of the most likely bidders ruled out an immediate offer, suggesting the Debenhams shares were too high.

Then Mr Robert Thornton, the Debenhams chairman, responded. He said: "With regard to the Debenhams share price the board is confident that the record results announced last week and the prospects of the group more than fully justified the present market capitalization."

Mr Ralph Halpern, Burton's chairman, had admitted that he had "mismanaged" Debenhams, as they have a number of other businesses.

He said that under "present circumstances" he would not be a bidder "at the sort of prices attributed to Mr Thornton."

added: "Indeed Burton is not convinced that Debenhams is worth its present market valuation of about £450 million."

Mr Thornton has spoken in terms of Debenhams being worth about £600 million.

The store groups shares were at one time down 24p at 304p on the public debate about their

value. They closed at 307p. This year the shares have climbed from 188p.

Johnson Matthey, the troubled precious metal group, shaded a few coppers from its 1985 high of 90p. There were market rumours that the acquisitive Hanson Trust had built up a near 5 per cent shareholding. Hanson would not comment: "We never do on market rumours," said Mr Martin Taylor, a director.

Hanson is, however, thought to be interested in Charter Consolidated, effectively JMI's parent. There has been market speculation for some time that it is accumulating a shareholding. The Hanson price fell 1p to 227p.

On the foods pitches Avana Group moved 13p higher to 634p as market men look forward to next month's full-year figures. Analysts expect a modest increase in profits, the pretax figure reaching between £19 million and £20 million, against a 1983/4 total of £16.7 million. But there is greater optimism for present year progress, with the City looking to the benefits of investments in recent years.

Elsewhere Mackintosh stays active, still on the back of bid rumours which are now a year old. Yesterday, shares in the confectionery and foods group jumped 10p to 436p, having touched 441p at one stage. Imperial Group is now sus-

pected as a bidder for Rowntree, and the former's shares were heavily traded, though they showed a 4p gain to 194p by the end of the day.

Imperial is thought to be close to that much-hoped-for disposal of Howard Johnson, its North American restaurant chain. Money released from Ho-Jo

will, undoubtedly, be quickly reinvested, though there are plenty of candidates — apart from Rowntree — for a takeover by Imperial.

Results from Land Securities gave the property sector a knock. Net asset value at the largest public property company has been put at 401p a share, for the year to March, several pence below market expectations and leaving analysts with worries that a certain amount of downgrading of assets has taken place.

The Securities' share price slid 12p lower to 298p, despite the 13.8 per cent rise in profits to £95.6 million, and pennies were lost from share prices across the lists. British Land slipped 3p to 148p, Haslemere eased 6p to 494p, MRECF fell 7p to 303p and Stone's Resources drifted 3p lower to 134p.

News of losses and a rights issue at Markheath Securities, smaller property business, did not help sentiment. Although the City had long expected bad news on the profits side, in the event the statement was enough to knock the Markheath share price 13p lower to 58p.

Kennedy Brooks, the Mario and Franco restaurant group, shaded 5p to 278p on its £10 million 6 1/4 per cent convertible loan stock rights issue. The cash will be used to increase KB's hotel presence.

Brengreen, on its contract to manage the toilets at King's

dipped 5p to 295p and the City now waits to see if another takeover attempt will emerge.

Elsewhere on the oils pitches prices continue to trade quietly against a background of a weak world spot price, though British Petroleum managed an 8p gain to 551p and Britoil was 3p better at 221p.

Lasmo improved 2p to 300p as its recent rights issue began to be forgotten. Shareholders took up more than 93 per cent of the rights, and the other available shares were sold in the market.

The Shell share price weakened again, and Tricentral also dipped 1p to 240p, despite its bid hopes.

Among second-line oil shares there were spots of excitement. Pict Petroleum, the USM-listed company, jumped 12p to 160p on market stories of an imminent, and possibly good, drilling report.

At Cliff Oil the company announced a simplification of its capital structure, involving the setting up of a holding company, "Shorefields", which would own the shares for existing ordinary shares and "B" share in Cliff. Yesterday, the Cliff price was unchanged at 53p.

with 2,305 options traded, and the SET, market index, contract is also much in favour — 1,141 contracts traded.

Price changes were few and far between, although Land Securities showed some response to yesterday's disappointing results. The July and October 280 calls slipped 12p and 10p respectively, while the July, October and January 350 puts rose by 12p, 11p and 10p.

In the meantime, business volume continues to improve over recent levels, with total trades reaching 9,484 yesterday. BT contracts dominate, still,

Crack the code to find out the secret of our success over the last 18 years. Or send for the 1984 Report and Accounts where the answers are perfectly plain.

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## Sears set to stop pussyfooting

In the mighty jungle of the high street the sleeping lion which is Sears prepares to stir. The roar of triumph might still be some way off but after yesterday's impressive figures the company is ready to growl at a City which has ignored its virtues and left the share price virtually static for the last 12 months.

Sears gave warning of emergence from its slumber when with almost nonchalant ease it stretched out a generous new to scratch the Foster Brothers' money chain away from the predator's jaws.

Ward White for £115 million, last month. Yesterday the company unveiled pretax profits of £175.2 million, up from £159.1 million, which defied earlier suspicions that it would struggle to better the excellent performance in the previous year.

The only real blemish on the results was the well anticipated but still very disappointing performance from the US footwear operations. Profits dipped from £12.7 million to £7.1 million as the vicious discounting in the wake of overstocking took its toll. It is an industry-wide problem but that is scant consolation and the depression could well continue throughout this year.

The problems have not deterred Sears from its drive into international retailing, and if anything the company's will expand its boots North America and Europe is firmer than ever before. The company has high hopes for its Olympus sports shops in Atlanta and Amsterdam, which are seen as centres to provide the base for future growth.

Footwear aside, the three

main stores divisions all improved profits with Selfridges and the Lewis chain taking pride of place.

Profits from these department stores increased from £18.7 million to £26.1 million and while Selfridges clearly benefited from the London tourist boom the work which is being done at Lewis should not be ignored. Substantial changes in marketing and merchandise have been introduced to excellent effect as the chain has moved more up-market without alienating the traditional customer base.

With the Foster chain adding another dimension to the group's activities the prospects for the current year are encouraging. Under Mr Geoffrey Maitland Smith's capable leadership, Sears could make around £200 million this year and the shares, down 1p to 93 1/2p, are due a rating.

Muirhead

Sir Raymond Brown built himself a formidable reputation in the defence industry but in the face of the RHP Group's £15 million bid for Muirhead, where he is chairman, Sir Raymond's defences have crumbled very rapidly.

A fortnight ago he was branding the bid "opportunistic" and "wholly inadequate" — now he is recommending it to his shareholders. What has changed?

Not a lot. RHP's bid was indeed opportunistic. In February Muirhead produced some dismal figures and followed them up with gloomy talk that the first half of the present year would be no

better. RHP knew that its target was vulnerable.

Muirhead could have given in gracefully... the bid should not have come as a shock for the American company Tyco had been signalling similar acquisitive intentions until a change of leadership led to the company selling its Muirhead stake last year. But when RHP produced its offer, Muirhead spluttered out a gut reaction and did its shareholders no good in the process.

Sir Raymond is now being forced to admit that overseas defence contracts are not coming through and that prospects for the present year are causing "increasing concern". His instinct was to fight off the bid but his armoury was pitifully short of ammunition.

His advisers, J Henry Schroder Wagg, have a man on the Muirhead board but do not seem to have suggested to Sir Raymond that negotiation rather than a dive for the bunker might have been a preferable response.

Now Muirhead's problems will be RHP's and the company is confident it can cope. "We thought that things were pretty grim there," says RHP's chairman Mr David Ewart. He is expecting last year's profits of £1.55 million to be lower this year, but is convinced that the Muirhead Vatrix components business is such a neat fit with his existing electronics activities that synergy will soon produce results.

About the facsimile business, on which Muirhead built its original reputation, he is less certain. He believes that success in today's facsimile market depends on having enormously strong backing.

General Accident

THREE-MONTHS' RESULTS

The results for the three months ended 31st March 1985, estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1984, which are restated at 31st December 1984 rates of exchange; also shown are actual results for the full year 1984.

It must be emphasised that the results for an interim period do not usually provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

3 Months to 31.3.85  
Estimate

3 Months to 31.3.84  
Estimate

Actual Year 1984

£ millions £ millions £ millions

Net written premiums - General Business

Investment Income

Underwriting Result - General Business

Long Term Insurance Profits

Loan Interest

Profit (Loss) before Tax and Minority Interests

Taxation

Minority Interests and Preference Dividend

Net Profit (Loss) attributable to Shareholders

Principal exchange rates used in translating overseas results

U.S.A.

Canada

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 6.4% and 3.3% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 11.5% and 7.9% respectively.

The first quarter result has again been seriously affected by severe weather losses principally in the United Kingdom but also in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

In the United Kingdom, net written premiums were £132.6m (1984, £125.5m) and there was an underwriting loss of £30.9m (1984, £31.1m). This marginal improvement was achieved despite a substantial deterioration in the Motor account result. The upsurge in claim frequency in the second half of last year continued into the first quarter producing a loss of £7.7m (1984, £1.9m loss). The impact of bad weather was taken mainly in the Homeowners and Commercial Property accounts giving rise to losses of £10.3m (1984, £12.6m loss) and £10.4m (1984, £12.8m loss) respectively. These accounts received some benefit from rate increases but the Commercial Property account suffered from an unusually high number of large fire claims. Experience in the Liability classes showed a substantial improvement but remains adverse.

In the United States, net written premiums were \$240.3m (1984, £213.6m) and the operating ratio was 119.75% as compared with 119.53% for the same period last year. On the United Kingdom accounting basis, the underwriting loss was £37.5m (1984, £35.8m loss). Some further deterioration in personal lines experience was largely offset by an improved result from the commercial accounts which are beginning to benefit from rate increases.

Elsewhere there were aggregate underwriting losses of £16.2m (1984, £13.4m loss). There was some improvement in experience in the E.E.C. territories but the incidence of weather claims led to sharply increased underwriting losses in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Single premium for Life business in the United Kingdom, following the successful launch of our unit-linked products, were sharply up at £31.0m (1984 £14.4m). New Annual premiums were lower at £5.9m (1984 £9.0m), the 1984 figure having been affected by the pre-Budget increase in business.

General Accident Fire &amp; Life Assurance Corporation plc

World Headquarters: Pitheavlis, Perth, Scotland PH2 0NH.



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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares fall back

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, May 13. Dealings End, May 31. 5 Contango Day, June 3. Settlement Day, June 10. 5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

THE TIMES Portfolio

DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000

Claims required for +32 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

| No.               | Company            | Price | Chg | Div | Yld | P/E |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| INDUSTRIALS L-R   |                    |       |     |     |     |     |
| 1                 | Lep                | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2                 | Robertson Res      | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 3                 | Moss (Robert)      | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 4                 | Marling            | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 5                 | Ricardo Eng        | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 6                 | Office Elect Mach  | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 7                 | Marshall Univ      | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 8                 | Reckitt & Colman   | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 9                 | Reckitt            | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 10                | Robertson (Thomas) | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| INDUSTRIALS S-Z   |                    |       |     |     |     |     |
| 11                | Sparrow (GVI)      | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 12                | TNT                | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 13                | Smiths Ind         | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 14                | Wadim              | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 15                | Wills (G) & Sons   | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 16                | Truvelor House     | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 17                | Wick               | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 18                | Vintex             | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 19                | Valor              | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| DRAPERY & STORES  |                    |       |     |     |     |     |
| 20                | Peters Stores      | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 21                | MFI                | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 22                | Gratton            | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 23                | Benetton           | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 24                | Vassallo Vye       | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 25                | Dinos              | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 26                | Summit Clothes     | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 27                | Church             | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 28                | Greenfield Blacks  | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 29                | Fortunier          | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| BUILDINGS AND RDS |                    |       |     |     |     |     |
| 30                | Costain            | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 31                | Mark (A)           | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 32                | Meyer Int          | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 33                | Wimpey (George)    | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 34                | Hugh & Hill        | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 35                | Lowell (V)         | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 36                | Carr (H) Doucster  | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 37                | Nottingham Brick   | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 38                | Amex               | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 39                | Lang (J)           | 100   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |

| Weekly Dividend   |     |     |     |     |     |              |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in Saturday's newspaper. |     |     |     |     |     |              |
| MON   | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT | WEEKLY TOTAL |
|   |     |     |     |     |     |              |

| BRITISH FUNDS                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| SHORTS (Under Five Years)                   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| OVER FIFTEEN YEARS                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| UNDATED                                     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| INDEX-LINKED                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| BUILDING AND ROADS                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| FINANCE AND LAND                            |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| FOODS                                       |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| HOTELS AND CATERERS                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| INDUSTRIALS A-D                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| INDUSTRIALS E-H                             |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| 1985 High Low Company Price Chg Div Yld P/E |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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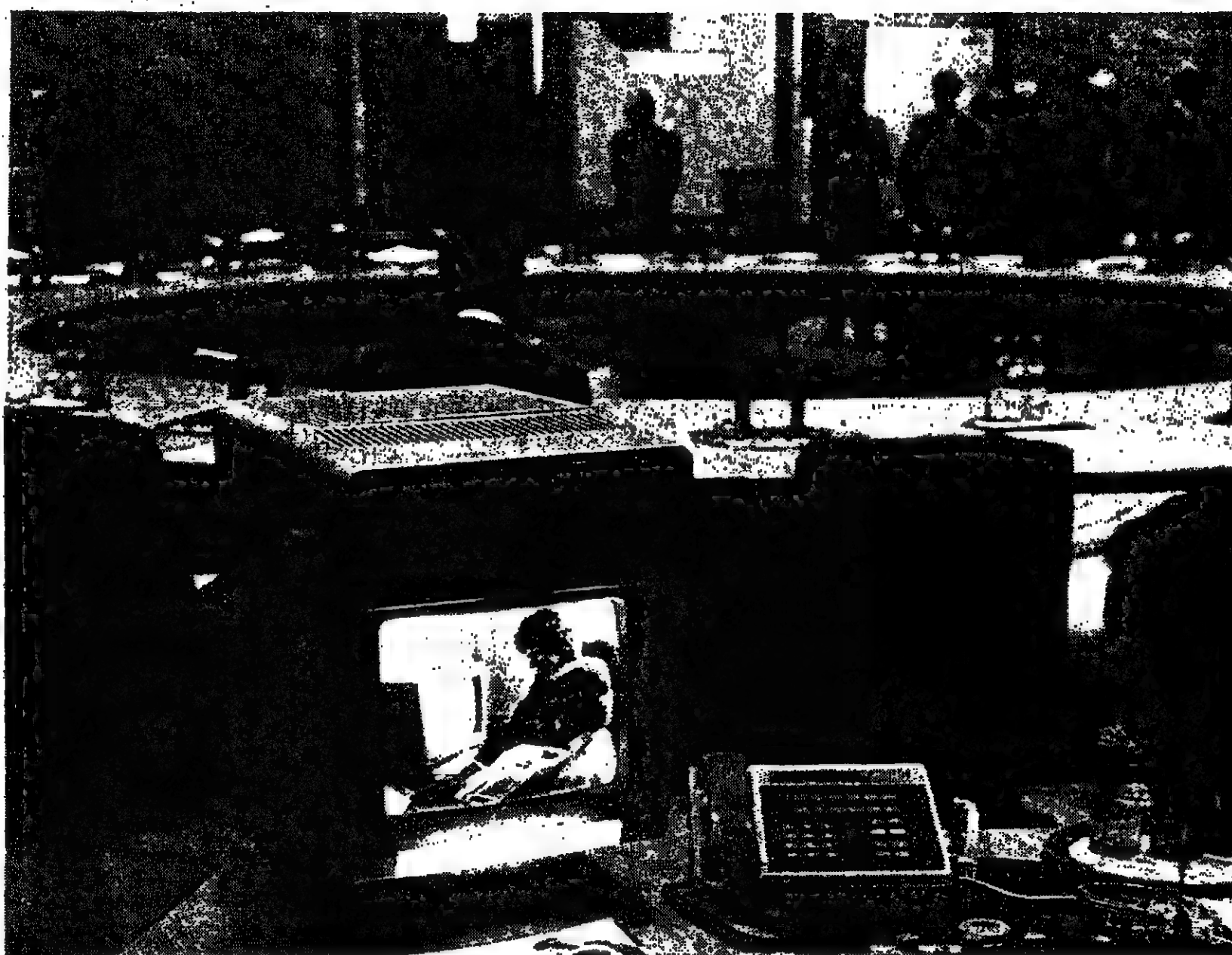
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**SIEMENS**

## New negotiating technique at the Bonn Economic Summit



It's the most modern conference technique yet.  
Optical fiber transmission.

For the Economic Summit in Bonn, Siemens  
installed an integrated communication system  
specially for the conferees. Everything anyone  
who's anybody might need:

VICOSET videophones. Electronic office  
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in all. In the conference zone, the news agencies,  
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So the politicians were always thoroughly  
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And the journalists were always thoroughly  
informed about the views of the politicians.

High-tech at the top, by Siemens.  
Pretty heady stuff.

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We've reached a new summit.**



**CRICKET: SOUTH AFRICA'S MOLE SURFACES TO REVEAL TOUR SIDE****Alan Gibson**











# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5

**CJES**

89 Knightsbridge, London SW1X 7BS  
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576  
Telex 837374 Fax 01-639 9216

**CJES** Interesting and varied senior appointment requiring administrative ability and social skills.  
**P.A. TO MANAGING DIRECTOR**  
Hammersmith £9,500 - £11,500  
U.K. HEAD OFFICE OF A LEADING INTERNATIONAL GROUP  
On behalf of our clients, who are a "household name" in consumer electronics, we have applications from well-qualified senior secretaries. Aged 30-35, with excellent shorthand and typing skills, proven administrative ability and a minimum of 4 years' experience in a similar position. A successful candidate will be responsible for the Managing Director's personal and professional affairs, including travel arrangements, correspondence, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified, confident, and efficient professional. Applications in strict confidence under reference PAV/00377 to the Managing Director.

**The Personal Touch**  
£11,500 ++  
Would you like to work in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere where you can use your skills to help people? We are looking for a PA to a senior manager. The job involves a lot of travel, so you must be able to travel frequently. You will be responsible for the manager's personal and professional affairs, including travel arrangements, correspondence, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified, confident, and efficient professional. Applications in strict confidence under reference PAV/00377 to the Managing Director.

**P R Start-Up**  
£9,500  
The MD of a small PR consultancy is looking for a PA. The job involves a lot of travel, so you must be able to travel frequently. You will be responsible for the MD's personal and professional affairs, including travel arrangements, correspondence, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified, confident, and efficient professional. Applications in strict confidence under reference PAV/00377 to the Managing Director.

**PA to Vice President**  
£11,500  
The Vice President of a large international company is looking for a PA. The job involves a lot of travel, so you must be able to travel frequently. You will be responsible for the VP's personal and professional affairs, including travel arrangements, correspondence, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified, confident, and efficient professional. Applications in strict confidence under reference PAV/00377 to the Managing Director.

**CJA**

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
25 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH  
Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576  
Telex 837374 Fax 01-639 9216

Challenging career opportunity within international finance for individual with recent general banking experience  
**CJRA BILINGUAL PA/SECRETARY - GERMAN/ENGLISH**  
CITY TO £12,500 NEG PLUS EXCELLENT BENEFITS PACKAGE  
CAPITAL MARKETS SUBSIDIARY OF MAJOR INTERNATIONAL BANK  
Our client, a major force in international finance, seeks a PA/Secretary to work for a joint Managing Director responsible for Administration/Personnel. Candidates should have excellent secretarial skills, be able to deal effectively with travel arrangements and administrative duties and work on their own initiative on a number of interesting and varied projects. Applications in strict confidence under reference BS16706/TT to:

**CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING LIMITED, 35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH**

**LINK Personnel**

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT £10,000 MAY DAY £10,000**  
Charming Director of small but exciting W.I. company seeks a top PA. The job involves a lot of travel, so you must be able to travel frequently. You will be responsible for the Director's personal and professional affairs, including travel arrangements, correspondence, and general office management. The successful candidate will be a well-qualified, confident, and efficient professional. Applications in strict confidence under reference PAV/00377 to the Managing Director.

## Shorthand Secretary

New business venture  
1 year contract; City;  
Salary in excess of £10,000

This is an opportunity for a secretary, probably in their late twenties, with at least 5 years' shorthand experience to play a key role in the small new business venture developing our exciting venture in the field of photovoltaics. You will be responsible to the Business Manager for the efficient running of the office. In addition to excellent shorthand and typing skills and at least 5 'O' levels including English Language, you must be bright, enthusiastic and well-motivated, with the necessary initiative to deal with a significant volume of overseas calls. Word processing experience, ideally using a DecMate II, is essential. The appointment is for a fixed term of one year. Hours 8.30-5.30pm based at our Moorgate Head Office. Please write or telephone for an application form, quoting ref. A.225, to:

Louise Aury, Personnel Officer,  
The British Petroleum Company PLC,  
Britannic House, Moor Lane, London EC2Y 9BU.  
Tel: 01-920 7165.

BP is an equal opportunity employer.

## BP Photovoltaics

**SECRETARY for Head of PR Central London £7,000 package**

Habitat, one of the greatest success stories in modern retailing, needs an enthusiastic and committed secretary to support our dynamic Head of PR. We seek someone with fast, accurate typing, plenty of initiative, a sharp eye for detail, and a natural flair for organisation. Written, verbal and 'phone' skills should be first-class, with shorthand a further plus. Your varied workload will include correspondence, press releases, administration, and generally keeping a busy and fast-moving function running smoothly! Salary package includes attractive benefits including Christmas bonus, and generous discounts on company products. Apply now by calling the Personnel Department on Wallingford (0491) 35000, or write enclosing full details to: Habitat Designs Limited, Hithercroft Road, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9EU.

## craftscouncil

**PA/SECRETARY**

The Crafts Council promotes artist craftspeople, helps them to maintain and improve their standards, and become better known to the public. Its Gallery/Resource Centre and administrative offices are close to Piccadilly Circus. The Council now requires a first class PA/SECRETARY. The postholder will work mainly for the Assistant Director (Administration & Finance) but will also carry out some work for other officers in the Section. Previously this position has provided a valuable asset in obtaining posts within the general field of arts administration. A good standard of education is required, several years general secretarial experience, and shorthand/typing speeds of 100/50 wpm. A willingness to do extra work would be helpful and committee organisation and experience of minute-taking would be an advantage. The starting salary is negotiable, plus possible proficiency allowances. Benefits include 24% days annual leave, season ticket loan facilities and a non-contributory pension scheme. For further details and application form contact: Barbara Castle, Crafts Council, 5 Waterloo Place, London SW1Y 4AT. Tel: 01-480 4811. Closing date for receipt of applications: 31st May 1985.

## Ask Alfred Marks.

**BI Lingual executive PA £13,000**

We have been asked on behalf of an established advertising company to recruit a PA with proven experience as an executive. The successful candidate will be fluent in German and French both written and spoken and must be free to travel to Europe frequently, acting on occasion for the UK. This position requires dedication together with a high degree of presentation, coupled with secretarial skills. Please contact Miranda Dawson for further details on 01-631 5262 (below the Jones Club) London W1. (All applications are treated in confidence)

## ALFRED MARKS Recruitment Consultants

**ADMINISTRATOR FOR TRAINING ORGANISATION**

Are you the person to handle the administration of the courses we run abroad? A large part of your time would be spent testing candidates on the phone and discussing courses with our clients. You will be between 25 and 45 with knowledge of a European language. Proven admin experience and fast accurate typing. If you have a good record in planning and co-ordination and can work under pressure with a busy team, PLEASE RING SARAH BRAINBRIDGE 01-837 3233 THE CANNING SCHOOL Salary £9,000 negotiable generous holiday. Staff pension scheme.

## SECRETARY/PA to Managing Director

Mature Secretary PA capable of working under pressure. At least 6 years secretarial experience. Administrative capability, shorthand, audio and word processor experience essential. Able to use own initiative when M.D. away. Ideal position for someone with commitment to join small team in growing company. Top salary for the right person. Replies in writing with C.V. marked private and confidential to: Greville J. Mitchell, Kethley Securities (UK) Ltd., 19/20 Bolton Street, London W1Y 7PA

## SECRETARY - PARK LANE

for Head of Client Sales Pressure environment. 100/60 WP advantage. Apply with full CV to Miss C Furneaux, Anglia Television Ltd, Brook House, 113 Park Lane, London, W1Y 4DX. (No telephone calls please).

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT/SECRETARY TO £9,500

A very confidential position to the SENIOR DIRECTOR of an int. textile Co. based H.O. West End. Excellent shorthand (100 wpm) and typing (80 wpm) skills are required. Ideally to be confident, efficient, well grounded, able to liaise with colleagues, lawyers and property negotiators, as these are some of the many attributes required for this very important position. For further details please call Roy Stockton, 01-734 8650.

## High Flying PA/Secretary?

A unique opportunity in Office Automation  
£12,000 London based

Centre-file, one of the leading Computer Service Companies in the UK, is now firmly established in the market place for office automation products. We provide a range of OA services to a variety of customers and are in the process of extending our own use of technology in the office. Presently working with an Equipment Supplier installing systems or having worked in a similar project to Centre-file you will possess:  
\* Fluency and the desire to progress beyond pure secretarial duties.  
\* The personality necessary to assist people of varying levels of ability to come to terms with the use of modern technology in the office.  
\* A high level of secretarial and word processing skills. Your initial duties will involve planning and introducing systems which assist senior management and their secretaries. These techniques will then be spread to the rest of the organisation and at a later stage there is the opportunity to become involved in working with customers. In addition to a high salary, there are a number of other benefits which go with the job such as preference mortgage aid, loan facilities and annual bonus and profit sharing payments. Applicants, male or female, should apply in writing to: Paul Macklin, Recruitment Officer, Centre-file Limited, 175 Leamington Road, London E1 6EX or telephone him on 01-480 3000.

**Centre-file Limited**  
A member of the National Westminster Bank Group

## Earning in Excess of £10,000 per annum?

If you are not, and you have a minimum 10 years' experience, you should be! You can use one of the major systems (Wang, IBM, Digital, Park, Xerox, etc.) or even Unicom, Nippon, Diamond, WordPerfect and you are looking for temporary work in Central London, call Thames Temp, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL. Apart from matching your excellent skills with our excellent assignments, we'll give you holiday pay and, if you like, we'll put you on the right track for a permanent job. We'll be glad to help you. Call Thames Temp, 100, Strand, London WC2R 0AL.

## A FLAIR FOR FASHION

A top name in the world of elegant classic fashion seeks a secretary to a Director. Help organise trade fairs and exhibitions. 100/50 skills and some word processor experience needed.

## JEWEL IN THE CROWN

A top manufacturing company of fashionable jewellery seeks a secretary/administrator. This position holds a minimal secretarial content. Ideally you should have some import, export or shipping experience in order to control their interests abroad. 100/50 skills needed.

## ADVERTISING, NO SHORTHAND

Close to Covent Garden, join this top advertising agency as secretary to their young account team. Set up client presentations and get involved. If you enjoy a young informal atmosphere this is for you. 60 wpm typing ability needed.

**Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants**  
18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 8070  
23 College Hill London EC4 Telephone 01-236 3712

## Marketing

Working at Board level for the director of a new Business Development company will give you the opportunity to use your initiative to the full. This is a demanding position which would suit a bright young secretary who enjoys dealing with client queries, research and maintaining information, as well as keeping track of a dynamic boss who is constantly out and about. Age: 23-30. Skills: 100/60.

## A Flair for Design

The clients of this young, go-ahead design company are leading household names. As you would expect the offices are modern and bright and there's even music while you work! There is a fair amount of typing but a large part of your job involves dealing with clients and giving them back-up to a team of designers. Age: 18-23. Skills: 60/50.

## HAZELL STATON ASSOCIATES

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS  
8 Golden Square, London W1 01-439 6021

## TEA AT THE RITZ!

We are a small, busy shipping company in the heart of Mayfair and we are looking for a bright, outgoing secretary to help run our office.

They will need a good educational background and secretarial skills with particular emphasis on fast, neat typing (tele/WP) and pleasant phone manner. The duties, however, will be interesting and varied and she will be working in a very friendly but professional atmosphere.

Initiative, confidence and a cheerful disposition would be advantageous as well as the ability to work under pressure. We will be happy to train the chosen candidate if necessary. Salary circa £7-8,000 pa.

Please apply with full CV to: Claire-Marie North Venture Shipping Agencies Ltd 26 Dover Street, London W1X 3PA

## Assistant to the Director of International Charity

This is a position of unusual interest and variety working with the Director of Help the Aged. As the Chief Executive of the charity, the Director leads what is a complex organisation working to further the cause of the needy elderly. Candidates will probably be aged between 25 and 35, and be experienced PA's. Sound secretarial skills are required along with discretion, resourcefulness, adaptability and the personality and poise to deal with senior executives and individuals at all levels. The job involves a high degree of personal input and responsibility, particularly in the Director's absence. Salary will be negotiable, on incremental scale £8,788 to £10,537, dependent on relevant experience. Please write with full CV and daytime phone number to: Chris Givins, Personnel Officer, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London EC1R 0BE.

## INVESTMENT RESEARCH/ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

Salary £12,000 to £18,000 upwards  
Swiss UK representation office in quiet S.W. London location has vacancy for a Research and Administration Assistant to monitor with an acute and inquisitive mind an international range of investments (equity, bonds, fund, etc). The use of a personal computer with Lotus and/or other accounting and spreadsheet models is involved. Applicants (male/female) will preferably be graduates, must at least have "A" level mathematics and experience of 2/3 years in investment markets with an institution or broker. Please send full C.V. in confidence to: Box 0824 W, The Times

## TEMPORARIES

Professional WP Operators and Secretaries with WP skills

The temporary division of Office Systems Management Centre has urgent and immediate demand for high calibre people to undertake assignments throughout London. Our contact team enjoy guaranteed long term work, highest rates of pay, continuous training on all the latest systems and the opportunity to progress into support application, programming and in-company consultancy / training which in turn offers extremely attractive pay and benefits plus holiday pay facilities. We work with some of the largest and most innovative companies in the London region and surrounding areas. We also offer very meaningful opportunities to develop your skills through Free Cross Training and most important of all excellent earning potential.

We have a wide selection of vacancies offering excellent opportunities and salaries in industries as diverse as publishing, television, marketing and professional business.

115 Shaftsbury Avenue, London, WC2H 8AD  
The Office Systems Division of the Alfred Marks Group

## CAREER POSITION FOR A YOUNG PA 22/23

Fine Art Printers & Publishers  
Salary Negotiable

The invaluable combination of Secretary to a creative sphere, a prestigious secretarial role is offered by this renowned Fine Art Publishing organisation.

The key to success in this position is flexibility - your job will be many-faceted, at times demanding, but always rewarding, as the ability to adjust to the different levels of your duties will be important. Duties will range from dealing with artists, responding either directly on their work or any other projects in hand, to liaising with the creative clients of your Director, and acting as the point of contact for the Fine Art Printers and Publishers. You will be involved with production matters concerning the printing of Fine Art Prints and Catalogues by the main company, with Copyrights and their community with other Publishing companies.

Your boss is an extremely busy man and actually needs you to be able to arrange social functions for him, such as Lunches etc. When he's out you'll be in charge of the office, and then, as at all other times, he'll delegate as much responsibility as you are prepared to take.

Good grammar, good organisation and a flair for administration will be considered just as important as your shorthand/typing, although minimum 80wpm typing skills are required, plus just a knowledge of shorthand, most of the work being done on a word processor. So if you feel you have the potential to handle this position and would appreciate the opportunity to do so, please apply to:

LESLIE BARKER  
01-253 7654  
for further details.

## Personal Assistant to the District Treasurer

Salary approx £7300-£9200 Inc.  
We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic person with secretarial skills and a flair for office organisation to assist the Treasurer and his senior staff.

The ability to use Word Processing facilities is essential. (Olivetti ETS 2010 system). Shorthand/typing expertise is desirable. Initially based in temporary accommodation at Putney Hospital, SW15, responsibilities will extend to the site at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, where the Treasurer's Department, will be relocated at the end of 1985.

Application form from: District Personnel Department, District Offices, Queen Mary's Hospital, on 01-789 7971, Ext. 3130. Closing Date: 31st May 1985.

**RTR**  
Richmond Twickenham & Roehampton  
(Health authority)

## FRENCH CRYSTAL W.I.

A unique secretary/p.a. needed for a one-off job in this small, exclusive company. You'll need to be smart, efficient, educated to 'A' level standard and have skills of 90/60. Age 20-28.

## ADVERTISING/P.R.

A superb opportunity for an experienced secretary to work for an Account Executive in this small but extremely successful city agency. Lovely new office. Age 21-26.

For these and many other jobs up to £11,500 please call us right away!

**TM International Ltd**  
Secretarial Recruitment  
50 Hans Crescent SW1  
01-584 8857

## TEMPORARIES CONTROLLER

An exciting opportunity exists to join one of the country's leading recruitment consultants based in a new office opening shortly in SW1. Energy, enthusiasm and positive attitude essential. Sales orientated and interested in a career are also pre-requisites. If you think you are capable of the challenge I am offering telephone me and tell me why.

**Laura Jones**  
01-486 7620

## Thinking of Temporary Work?

Manpower

Just the job for job satisfaction

**MANPOWER** Tel: 225 0505

## WEST END JEWELLERS

require typist to carry out general office duties. Accurate typing is essential and switchboard experience is preferred. Candidates must be well presented and must have an outgoing personality. Salary £8,000 A.A.E.

Tel: 01-636 9598



# LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Trade 01-278 9161/5

## PA to MD

**\$10,000 + Most Subs**

If you take pride in your work and would like a boss who appreciates high standards, then you will be a good fit for a leading Merchant Bank needs you. In charge of Capital Markets and Banking, he has a busy and complicated work schedule including frequent trips to Europe. He relies totally on you for the smooth running of his office and therefore seeks a self-starter, with excellent secretarial and administrative skills. You should be well presented with an ability to stay calm under pressure. Luxury offices and excellent banking benefits.

Age 25-40. Speeds 100/70.

## PA

**\$10,500**

A fast moving cosmopolitan international American trading organisation based in the City is seeking an alert, fast thinking P.A. who enjoys the cut and thrust of sharp and business situations. It is on a "one to one" basis working for a mid 30's East Coast American who is approachable but demanding. He covers their Canadian and Japanese operation. There is considerable client contact and internal liaison as well as all the usual P.A. duties. Applicants must enjoy a busy and demanding day with overtime as appropriate. Excellent benefits including paid overtime. Age 25-32. 100/60 wpm.

01-499 9175

**MacBlain**  
**NASH**  
Recruitment Consultants

## EXECUTIVE SEARCH

**Package £11,000+**

Dynamic partner of this highly respected international company needs an executive to assist him. Responsibilities include: managing the secretarial back-up, liaisons with their overseas office, arranging travel and hotels for visitors, organising appointments for candidates and carrying out secretarial duties. Excellent educational background, at least to A level standard, commercial experience and fast 50/40 wpm speeds essential. Superb offices and benefits include BUPA, free lunches, dress allowance and generous bonus. Age 25-35.

Please ring 434 4312.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## SECRETARY - LONDON W.C.2

**£8,500**

Secretary and administrative assistant to the Manager of a dynamic learning education project within a professional institution. Age 25-45. No shorthand, but office administration experience and good typing skills essential. We need a self-motivated and reliable person with initiative - and the personality to deal with senior people in the education and engineering professions.

Telephone: 01-436 3357.

## PA/SECRETARY

**up to £8,694 p.a.**

Required for busy research and clinical department. Knowledge of word processing (Philips), medical terminology and shorthand useful, but not essential as fast and accurate typing of pathology reports, manuscripts and letters. Applicants must be able to work under pressure, with highly qualified people from Europe, USA and other countries. Salary will be in the range £7,892-£8,694 p.a., 26 days annual leave. Applications including CV to The Personnel Office, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, 180 Duane Road, London W12 0NS. Closing day 01/06/85. Closing time 24/05/85.

## ADVENTURE IN SCOTLAND

Would you enjoy life in the Highlands as part of an island community. Our client runs a small, exclusive holiday resort on the shores of Loch Ness. The resort is a beautiful and peaceful place, with a small community of about 100 people. A career of adventure, the ability to appreciate the rugged and wild beauty of the Highlands, practical common sense and an understanding of the needs of the resort are essential. A house will be provided as part of the remuneration package.

01-604 1611

## Senior Secretaries

**TRI-LINGUAL TRAVELLING P.A. £15,000**

Can you travel at a moment's notice? Have you personally, personally and that certain "je ne sais quoi"? Yes? Then this dynamic international travel company is looking for you. A truly special opportunity for you to add to your office skills, to travel and to see the world. Excellent French and German skills and travel experience essential. If you have confidence and energy, this is the best of all worlds. Then don't hesitate to call.

AMANDA BUENO on 734 0911

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**USE YOUR GERMAN £10,500 + MORTGAGE**

Two dynamic young Managing Directors of a Mortgage Bank in EC2 need a team-minded Secretary/PA with good conversational German and a preference for German shorthand to manage their busy lives. Duties include arranging meetings & travel, typing & using a Wang WP (training given if necessary). You will need 100 shorthand/60 typing, education to A level with GCSEs. Age 27-35.

Please call 588 2525

18 Euston Street, EC2

## Crone Corkill

**COLLEGE LEAVER INTERIOR DESIGN**

From tiny table palaces to yachts being a Designer is a career that's just as exciting as the "hot" of the "hot" and you'll be working with your own hands. Good design, experience and enthusiasm will ensure you are a success. A college leaver in the interior design industry is a rare find. Call MONIKA WUESCHNER on 831 0666

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**CITY START £6,500**

A newly qualified Secretary with 'A' levels and speeds of 100/70 is required to work for a busy young Executive in a small (10 Staff) Financial Group near St. Pauls. Although you will have your own boss, you will also work closely with the Managing Directors PA in helping to run the office.

434 4312

## Crone Corkill

**AMERICAN ATTORNEY REQUIRES**

Enthusiastic, efficient secretary with word processing experience & professional outlook to join small friendly City office of American law firm. Previous legal experience not necessary, but must be non-smoker. Salary negotiable. Suit motivated 2nd jobber.

Please write to Penny

Mourant, 38 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5SE.

## AMERICAN ATTORNEY REQUIRES

**C.P.T. SECRETARY c. £9,000**

Replies expanding secretarial service require an exp. C.P.T. operator to become fully involved in the running of their busy Mayfair office. Call Jackie for a rewarding career opportunity.

Ring Claire Fisher

01-354 0735

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**Are You Career Minded?**

Secretary with shorthand required for expanding north London marketing company of specialist chemicals. Languages an asset. Chemistry qualification useful. Excellent salary for right person.

Ring Claire Fisher

01-354 0735

## W.1

**£13,000**

This international group involved in consumer services industries is looking for a PA/Sec to assist a Senior Sales Director. The ideal candidate will be well presented and have a CV which reflects a broad working knowledge of the City. In addition to the normal secretarial duties you will be responsible for organising seminars and dinners and liaising closely with City VPs and the press. Age 25-35. Speeds 100/80.

## EC2

**£10,000 + Bonus**

The International Sales Director of this well-known firm of manufacturers is looking for a professional Sec/PA to assist. You will be responsible for organising and helping to plan his very busy travel schedule and holding the fort in his absence. Age 24-30. Speeds 100/80.

**CRONE AND DAVIS RECRUITMENT LTD.**  
35 Bruton Place W1. 01-483 7788

## WELCOME

Tonight we would like to invite you to come in and see us in our City office. We will be holding an open evening between 5.00 pm and 6.30 pm in order to meet secretaries who find it difficult to visit us during office hours. It will be a very informal evening and we are very easy to find - just 3 minutes from the Bank - Watford Road exit, or 1 minute from Cannon Street tube - Doggate Hill exit.

**Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants**  
23 College Hill London EC4 Telephone 01-236 3712

## INTERNATIONAL OIL SERVICES COMPANY

is looking for a sales person to run small London office and travel within Europe canvassing future clients and talking to existing clients. Travelling approx. 1/3 of the year. Person should be young and dynamic. Speak and write French and preferably have chemical background or crude oil experience. This is a unique opportunity for someone to create a whole new department.

Please reply Box TT 80,

The Times,

8 rue Halvay,

75441 PARIS CEDEX 09, France.

## SECRETARY/PA

**£9,000 +**

FOR CITY SURVEYORS

We are looking for a first class Secretary to assist a City Surveyor in his work. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £9,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: International Secretaries, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**International Secretaries**  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357

## SPRING TEMPS

If you are a language Secretary with minimum skills of 90/50 shorthand and would like to join our team of bilingual temps for our exciting range of spring assignments, please give us a call immediately. We will also inform you of our new temp Spring rates in reward for your excellent skills.

174 NEW BOND STREET

## International Secretaries

18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357

## US BANK SEC

**to £8,000 + mortgage**

Progressive U.S. bank urgently requires several bright ambitious secretaries for rapidly expanding marketing and high technology divisions. Candidates should have proven secretarial skills (90/50), some knowledge of w.p. and the ability to cope with a hectic but varied workload. An excellent college leaver would be considered. Age 19+.

For further details please call

CAROLE OR ALISON on

238 1919 (24 hrs)

FORTHAM RECRUITMENT SERVICES

## PROPERTY

**to £10,000**

Organised, reliable P.A. Sec. required to assist a busy Property Developer in his work. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £10,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Call Charlotte Meill-Fraser on 01-730 5145

01-730 5145

## DAYEAR

(Rec. Cons.)

## Holborn Solicitors

Require Secretary to work for Partner plus one other fee earner. Interesting variety of work, attractive salary for right person with legal experience. Knowledge of law and shorthand essential. CV to: Miss S. J. Williams, Terro Lyons, High Holborn House, 22/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RU.

434 4312

## Crone Corkill

**AMERICAN ATTORNEY REQUIRES**

Enthusiastic, efficient secretary with word processing experience & professional outlook to join small friendly City office of American law firm. Previous legal experience not necessary, but must be non-smoker. Salary negotiable. Suit motivated 2nd jobber.

Please write to Penny

Mourant, 38 Coleman Street, London EC2R 5SE.

## AMERICAN ATTORNEY REQUIRES

**C.P.T. SECRETARY c. £9,000**

Replies expanding secretarial service require an exp. C.P.T. operator to become fully involved in the running of their busy Mayfair office. Call Jackie for a rewarding career opportunity.

Ring Claire Fisher

01-354 0735

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**Are You Career Minded?**

Secretary with shorthand required for expanding north London marketing company of specialist chemicals. Languages an asset. Chemistry qualification useful. Excellent salary for right person.

Ring Claire Fisher

01-354 0735

## Little Typing

**£7,000-£8,000**

Little or no typing will be called for as a consultants assistant with a young energetic, highly professional and successful selection and recruitment company specialising in assignments for law practices and legal departments.

You must want to establish wide ranging relationships and enjoy communicating effectively in what is mainly an administrative position assisting applicant and employer lawyers in their dealings with us.

The post is seen as an outgoing secretary unfilled by a pure secretarial role.

The post carries good salary, four weeks holiday, BUPA after three months' bonuses, (not commission) etc.

Applications by telephone or in writing quoting ref: PTPA to Philipps Trust, Renter Street Limited, 20-28 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4BE. Telephone: 01-485 6852.

## REUTER SIMKIN RECRUITMENT

## RIGHT HAND TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**£5 to £10,000**

The Chief Executive of this construction group needs an efficient and professional Sec/PA to assist him in his work. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £5 to £10,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM

**SECRETARY FOR SENIOR PARTNER**

busy American law firm requires an experienced shorthand/typist secretary to work on an advanced word processor. Applicants should have first-class skills & experience operating at top level. Flexibility, intelligence, a sense of humor & the ability to work under pressure essential. Some overtime required. Salary in excess of £10,000 plus overtime, annual review, bonus & free lunches. Our offices are small but sophisticated situated in Aldwych, W.C.2.

Please send details to Christine Fox, Goldsmith Jones & Partners, Aldwych, London WC2E 7AF. Telephone: 01-485 6852.

## KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

**PHYSIOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

We require a SECRETARY (from 1986 June 1985 or as soon as possible thereafter) to assist and take an active interest in a research programme for physiology research. The person appointed will need excellent typing and shorthand (or speed) for presentation of reports and data. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £5,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS (quoting ref: 35049)

## EXHIBITION ORGANISER £8,500

If you enjoy administration and have the ability to co-ordinate the organising of exhibitions, at least one of the following: a) a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position; b) a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position; c) a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £8,500 plus benefits. Please send CV to: International Secretaries, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**International Secretaries**  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357

## TOP TELEVISION

**£8,900**

Managing director, of independent television company, needs a competent and energetic secretary to assist him in his work. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £8,900 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## PROPERTY

**£9,000 + perks**

Join the City's leading largest estate agents based in Euston. As a P.A. Secretary for a busy Property Developer in his work. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £9,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## MOIRA BENISSON

on 734 0911

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**PR IN TRAVEL £7,000**

The Continental PR firm, the world renowned travel co., seek an outgoing young PR who will assist in the running of the office. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £7,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## PA/SECRETARY

required for Managing Director. Wholesale Distribution Company NW10. Essential shorthand/typing skills. Good telephone manner, cheerful disposition. Proven good shorthand/typing skills. Salary negotiable. Please send CV to: Betty Rappaport, Personnel, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## EXECUTIVE PA

**£9,000 to £10,000**

Palaces opportunity in this office based in the City. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £9,000 to £10,000 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## CAREER IN P.R.

**£8,000+**

An experienced P.A. is needed for the managing director of our rapidly expanding public relations consultancy in W.1. We require good typing skills, an outgoing personality and the desire to become totally involved in this exciting new business.

Please contact Pam Drake on 01-571 7347

## SURBITON

**£7,500 p.a. + Free lunch**

Expanding advertising agency needs Secretary/PA to assist in the running of the office. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £7,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## PA IN FASHION

**£8,500**

A superb opportunity for a highly motivated and energetic person to join a leading fashion company in the City. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £8,500 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## URGENTLY REQUIRED

**Secretary/Administrator (Salary £28,500 p.a.)**

For small international marketing company, a highly motivated and energetic person to assist in the running of the office. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £28,500 p.a. plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## PA IN FASHION

**£8,500**

A superb opportunity for a highly motivated and energetic person to join a leading fashion company in the City. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £8,500 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## DESIGN SECRETARY

**£11,000 + neg CITY**

Tired of a secretarial role but enjoy WP/Typing? We need an intelligent person with good skills and pleasant personality to join our small friendly WP service. Excellent prospects if you really want to get involved. WP training (Philips) given. Non-smoker.

01-283 5462

## DRAKE PERSONNEL

**Are You Career Minded?**

## SENIOR SECRETARY

**NW1, Camden Lock c £8,000 pa + Co benefits**

Required for divisional Manager and small team in facsimile area of an international computers and communications company.

You will provide a full secretarial service and ensure the smooth running of the department. The successful candidate should have all round secretarial skills including shorthand, ability to work under pressure and possess a mature and flexible outlook.

A working background in sales and marketing or in the hi-tech industry would be an advantage. Preferred age 25+.

If you are interested please write with full CV to:

May Soudah, Personnel Department, NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd., 35 Oval Road, London NW1 7EA.

Or telephone for an application form on 01-267 4530 using our 24 hour answering service. (No Agencies).

**NEC**

NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd.

Where technology is advancing people

## 6 On the other hand I'm very well understood by my temporary secretaries from...

**Senior Secretaries**  
CITY 01-606 9111/WEST END 01-436 3357  
The first numbers to ring

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Young chairman of Britain's most successful incoming U.S. travel company with offices in London and New York requires PA with good secretarial skills. Applicants aged 25-35 must be smart, personable, flexible and confident enough to represent and negotiate on the company's behalf of clients at home and abroad. Hard work and non-clock watching, attitude essential. Driving license required. Start on or before 1st June. Full job for the right person but not for snobs. £9,200 review after 3 months. Holidays after 6 months. Send CV to:

Julie Stone, P.H. Holdings Ltd, 888 House, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1. (no agencies.)

## NATIONAL ADVISORY BODY for PUBLIC SECTOR

**HIGHER EDUCATION PERSONNEL ASSISTANT**

Experienced full-time Personnel Assistant needed for Chairman of the Council and the Principal Assistant Secretary to the Council. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position. Salary is £9,200 plus benefits. Please send CV to: Crone Corkill, 18 Euston Street, W.C.2. Tel: 01-436 3357.

**Crone Corkill**  
Recruitment Consultants  
18 Euston Street, W.C.2

## FAST CARS

**£10,000 Neg**

You need to use your initiative and your ability to co-ordinate the fast moving sports group with a major hotel office. As the PA, your good shorthand, typing skills and ability to work under pressure are essential as is your ability to make decisions. Age 30-40.

01-577 8888 City

01-436 7881 West

## Directors' Secretaries

Tel 01 629 9323

## PR IN TRAVEL £7,000

The Continental PR firm, the world renowned travel co., seek an outgoing young PR who will assist in the running of the office. The ideal candidate will be a well presented, energetic and efficient person with a minimum of 5 years



# SUPER SECRETARIES

01-837 0668

## CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN P.R. AND JOURNALISM Secretarial Assistant in Press Office

The company is a major force in the media industry, with major contracts in the UK and Europe. As a secretarial assistant in the Press Office, you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Press Office, including the preparation of press releases, the handling of press enquiries, and the coordination of press conferences. You will also be responsible for the maintenance of the Press Office's files and the preparation of the Press Office's daily briefing notes. The job involves working with the Press Office's senior staff, including the Press Officer, the Press Secretary, and the Press Liaison Officer. You will also be responsible for the coordination of the Press Office's activities with the company's other departments, including the Marketing Department, the Sales Department, and the Finance Department. The job is a challenging and rewarding one, and it offers a great opportunity for you to develop your skills and to gain valuable experience in the media industry. If you are interested in this position, please send your CV to: **MacBlain Nash**, Recruitment Consultants, 01-499 3551 or 3531.

**MacBlain Nash**  
Recruitment Consultants

## Financial PR £8,500

This is a new job in newly-acquired offices, working for the Investor Relations Manager of one of the UK's highest-flying companies. Your role is to assist in promoting and understanding the company and its products (and prospective) to the public. This includes telephone calls, organising meetings, and arranging visits to Group facilities. Accurate skills (80/50), numeracy and maturity are required. Age 20+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## College Leavers to £7,500

If you are looking for a first step (or a first career move) we have a lot to offer interesting, well-paid jobs throughout Central London in media, music, art and advertising, publishing, property, oil, insurance, design, politics, finance, charities... If you have good secretarial skills and would like to find out how much you are really worth, get in touch. We will be delighted to discuss the many opportunities available to you. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## RECEPTION + SALARY C. £7,250 + benefits

Would you enjoy meeting people and running a busy reception area in a smart office near the City? We need someone to promote our image in the front line of our client contact. A welcoming and efficient telephone manner is essential combined with immaculate appearance and accurate audio-typing. Variable Audio Secretary - Salary c. £7,250 + benefits. Would you enjoy being part of a busy team in a rapidly expanding company? We are looking for an accurate audio secretary with a pleasant friendly personality. Please telephone Tina Woodcock, The Woodcock Group, 01-499 3474.

## Micro Marketing £8,000 + bonus

Our clients provide computer services. Young, dynamic and expanding rapidly, they now require a confident and outgoing PA to Managing Director. This is a job of great variety and responsibility, handling market surveys, minutes, contracts and liaison with clients/suppliers etc. Fringe benefits for advancement within the company. You should have good skills (90/50) and sound secretarial references. Age 20+. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS Secretary/PA to Financial Controller

The Financial Controller of the Royal Society of Arts requires a secretary to work in the society's offices at John Adam St, nr Charing Cross. The successful applicant will possess excellent audio/secretarial skills, although shorthand is not essential. In addition, it will be necessary to have had previous experience of working in a financial department. He or she will have a friendly outgoing personality and must be prepared for some flexibility of routine. The wide ranging work of the RSA is best revealed by the full title of The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce. The work of the financial controller covers every aspect of the Society's operations, with specific responsibility for all financial and personnel matters. Salary plus pension with excellent CV to James Richardson RSA, 8 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EJ.

## AUDIO SECRETARY

Small friendly housing association seeks capable person to provide Secretarial support and full administrative back-up to the managing director. Excellent salary and benefits. Excellent opportunity for advancement. Salary £7,000. 5 months appointment. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## RECEPTIONIST CASHIER

Large busy progressive retail Travel Agency in Kensington requires an experienced person for Reception and Relief Cashier duties including Foreign Exchange. Attractive salary and benefits. Written applications and CV's to: Susan Allen, Travelers Travel Centre, 42-44 Park Road, London, W8 6EJ.

## SECOND JOBBY to £7,500

With 5 to 12 months working experience, College qualifications of shorthand (100 wpm) and typing (50 wpm) to work as director level of a leading City Financial Company. Excellent benefits to include mortgage assistance, free staff restaurant. For further details please contact Roy Stockton 01-734 8466.

## SECRETARY/PA

Secretary/PA required for busy expanding interior design company based in Chelsea. Age 20-25, with good shorthand, typing, and ability to work on own initiative. First salary per annum. Please phone Vicky or Shirley on 01-586 3942.

## COLLEGE LEAVERS

For all - £6,000. Fresh graduates seeking jobs. Very good opportunities in the City. Salary £6,000. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNWEALTH SECRETARIES

Required by Appointment Office. International, confidential, demanding initiative, versatility and stamina. Excellent secretarial skills and a good knowledge of shorthand. Compensation in WP an advantage. Family University system preferred. Salary £7,000 per annum. Apply to: The Association of Commonwealth Secretaries, 11 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF or Telephone Secretary 01-493 5787.

## PR FOR CHARITY

For all - £6,000. Fresh graduates seeking jobs. Very good opportunities in the City. Salary £6,000. Please telephone 01-493 5787.

## PA FOR CHARITY

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# PROPERTY SOUTH OF THE THAMES

Trade 01-837 3462 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

## CLAPHAM, close to the river, 2 bed flat, 1/2 bath, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

## CLAPHAM COMMON, north side, 2 bed flat, 1/2 bath, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

## CLAPHAM, SW11, 3 bed flat, 1/2 bath, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

## DULWICH VILLAGE, attractive, 3 bed house, 2 baths, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

## MILFORD, Victorian, 3 bed house, 2 baths, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

## WIMBORNE, 2 bed house, 1 bath, private garden, £250,000. Long lease. 01-837 3333 or 3311.

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صبرنا من الازل

Kirkcaldy. His course, he tells them, is "a slip road to the motorway of

rectal. Includes works by Byrd (including Fantasia in A minor); Louis Couperin (Pavane in F sharp minor); Proberger, Puccini, Handel (Suite in F minor) and Domenico Scarlatti (the Sonatas K49 and K5; 10.)

**11.57 News.** Until 12.00.

**Radio 2**

On medium wave, also VHF stereo.  
News on the hour (except 9.0pm).  
Headlines 5.30am, 6.30, 7.30 and 8.30  
4.00 Colin Berry; 6.00 Ray Moore; 8.05

woodshed but the author has the door double-locked. Alec McGowen

Run/floor/horror racing from 7:00-9:00  
The Mecca-Dante Stakes 3:00 Sports  
Deck 3:30 Music all the way  
Sports Deck 4:00 David LaMontagne  
5:05, 5:30, 6:00 Sports Deck 6:05  
Johnnie & 6:45 Sport and Classified  
Results (MF) only 7:00 European Soccer  
Special Everton v Rapid Vienna for the  
Cup Winners' Final Commentary from  
Rotterdam, by Byron Butler. Peter  
James, and Jimmy Armfield. 9:10 Listen  
the Benoit/Charlie Chester introduces the  
Sun Life Band 9:55 Sports Deck 10:00  
The Foydsky Saga 11 10:15 The  
Houghton Weavers 10:30 Hubert Gregg  
says Thanks for the Memory 11:00  
Brian Mathew presents Round Midnight

production of *Rigoletto*, and Degas the Printmaker at the Hayward.

**Radio 1**

On medium wave, false VHF stereo  
Notes on the hall hour from 8.30am until  
9.30pm and at 12 midnight 6.00am  
Adrian John, 7.00 Mike Read, 8.00  
Simon Bates, 12.00 Gary Davies and  
12.30pm Newsbeat, 2.30 Steve Wright  
5.00 Bruno Brookes and 5.00 Newsbeat  
7.30 Jane Long, 10.00-12.00 John  
Peel VHF Radio 1 & 2 4.00pm With  
Radio 2, 7.00am John Dunn, 8.00 Simon

to Think About. 2.15 The Song Tree. 2.35 Pictures in Your Mind.

### WORLD SERVICE

**6.00** Newsday. **6.30** Omnibus. **7.00** World News. **7.20** Twenty-Four Hours. **7.30** Report On Russia. **7.45** The's Trend. **8.00** World News. **8.30** Publications. **9.15** Classical Record Review. **9.30** Ralph McTell and Friends. **9.00** World News. **9.05** Review of the British Press. **9.15** The World Today. **9.30** Financial News. **9.40** Look Ahead. **9.45** It's All Been Done Before. **10.00** News Sunday. **10.05** World News. **10.30** It's All Sunday. **11.00** World News. **11.05** News About Britain. **11.15** Hungar. **11.25** A Letter From Wales. **11.30** Meridian. **12.05** Radio Newsweek. **12.15** News Notebook. **12.25** The Flaming World. **12.45** Sports Roundup.

Bax's String Quartet No 1  
(English String Quartet); Handel's  
3 others that represent a good 18th-century

|                           |       |                       |         |
|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------|
| World News                | 4.08  | Commentary            | 4.15    |
| Counterpoint              | 7.46  | Good Books            | 8.90    |
| World News                | 6.08  | Twenty-Four Hours     | 8.90    |
| Accompanying              | 8.00  | Summary               | 8.01    |
| Network UK                | 9.15  | International Special | Special |
| 10.00 World News          | 10.09 | The World Today       |         |
| 10.25 A Letter From Wales | 10.30 | Financial News        | 10.40   |
| Reflections               | 10.46 | Sports Roundup        | 11.00   |
| World News                | 11.09 |                       |         |
| 11.15 Good Books          | 11.30 | Top Twenty            | 12.00   |
| World News                | 12.09 | News                  | 12.09   |
| From Britain              | 12.15 | Radio Newsworld       | 12.30   |
| Standings                 | 1.00  | News Summary          | 1.01    |
| Outlook                   | 1.30  | Videopage             | 1.40    |
| Book Choices              | 1.46  |                       |         |
| British Press             | 2.00  | World News            | 2.09    |
| Review of the Month       | 2.18  | Network UK            | 2.30    |
| Around the World          | 2.30  | World News            | 2.40    |
| About Britain             | 2.45  | The World Today       | 2.46    |
| Financial News            | 2.49  | The World Today       |         |

85m; 1089kHz/275m; Radio 2: 693  
21kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; Capital: 154

**HTV** As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 It's a Vet's Life. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Hart to Hart. 6.00-6.35 News. 12.00 Closedown.

**HTV WALES** As London except: 6.00pm-6.35 Wales at Six.

**CENTRAL** As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Something to Treasure. 1.20 News. 1.30-2.30 Simon and Simon. 6.00-6.35

**SCOTTISH** As London except  
12.30pm-1.00pm

**to Treasures. 11:20-1:30 Lunchtime 3:30-4:00 Paint Along With Nancy. 6:00-6:35 Good Evening Ulster 12:00 Closesdown**

**CHANNEL** As London except 11:55am-12:00 All Bongo. 12:30pm-1:00 Keep it in the family. 1:20-1:30 News. 5:15-5:45 Different strokes. 6:00-6:35 Channel report. 12:00 Closesdown.

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**WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN**  
• 1 Stereo. ★Black and white. (r) Repeat

# INS

**YOUNG VIC STUDIO** 929 4363  
 COUNTRYSIDE 7501 Southview 730, Wed  
 2-PM Mats 200 Shambles  
**YOUNG VIC FOR MEASURING**  
 YOUNG VIC 510 229 6363  
 From 16 May, Paul Alexander in  
 JAIL. ACCORDING TO ST  
 JOHN.

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**ART GALLERIES**

**ANDREW WYLLIE GALLERY** 17  
 Clifford St. W1, T34 5678.  
 Watercolours, drawings and oil paint.  
 Shop from 10am-5pm, 10am-12pm  
 Until 31 May 10-6 Mon-Fri

**ANTHONY D'OFFAY**, 23 Dering St.  
 W1. GEORGE BASELITZ -  
 10am-6pm, 10am-12pm

**THE NATIONAL THEATRE  
AWARD WINNING MUSICAL  
GUYS AND DOLLS**

**BROWSE & DAREY**, 19 Cork Street, London W1C 7HE 4 Philip Sutton.  
Recent paintings.

**CHRIS BENTLEY LTD.**, 5 Ryder St., St James's SW1 9AD Sues Barry  
Wright "Watchdog" series. Recent  
paintings in a garden unit. 18 May  
10-6.

**COLNAGH**, 74 Old Bond St. W1,  
Tel 091 7603 Exhibition of English  
drawings & watercolours. Mon-Sat  
2-11n. 10.00-6.00, 10.00-1.00 Sat

**DRAKE KALMAN GALLERY**, 178  
St John's Wood Rd NW6 7EJ  
English Artists: James Ffion  
Alan Lowndes, L. S. Lowry, Rutkin  
Smith. Closed Tues

**15th May-18th June, 1985, 01-594  
7666. Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-4.**

**FINE ART SOCIETY**, 148 New Bond  
St W1 6LU Tel 01-499 3333

Paul Raymond presents a new concept in erotic entertainment  
**RAZZLE DAZZLE**

**2507 4630.**  
**30509 FINE ARTS** Pierre Bonnard  
 Paintings, water colours & drawings  
 14-17 July 4. Mon-Fri 10.00-6.30.  
 Catalogue: *avail.* 5s. Davies St.  
 London W1 4EJ.

**NATIONAL GALLERY, Trafalgar**  
 Square, London WC2. 01-839 3321.  
 Wednes. 10-5. Thurs 8-5. Adm. free.

**NATIONAL GALLERY, OF**  
 MODERN ART, 27 May Recorded  
 into 01. 839 3322.

**OMELI GALLERIES, 22 Bury**  
 St., SW1. Tel. 01-839 4274.  
**EXHIBITION OF MARINE**  
**PAINTINGS, 13th May - 24th**  
**May. Mon-Sat. 10.00-6.00 p.m.**

**PATCH GALLERY, 11, hampstead, 22**

**4th YEAR OF THE  
AWARD WINNING**

**PRINTS FOR COLLECTORS**  
 Cassell's Cheapest Colours National  
 Kilm Palace Norwich-Lancaster etc.  
**WILLIAM WESTON GALLERY**  
 7 Royal Arcade Albemarle St. W1

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**ROYAL ACADEMY PICNICALLY** O-  
 725 5000  
**EDWARD BIRCH** Paintings  
 Daily 10-6 Sat. Sun. After 22. 2.14-6  
 until 1.45 open on Sat. & conc. rate.

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**SOLOMON GALLERY** 15A Bruton  
 Place W1 01 5811  
 Paintings, Prints, Sculpture  
 London show of Fabricius (major  
 work) 10-6 Sat. Sun. After 22. 2.14-6  
 Also British Contemporary Artists in  
 gallery 10-6 Sat. Sun. After 22. 2.14-6  
 & 30. Sat by appointment

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**THACKERAY GALLERY** 7B  
 Fitzroy St. W1 957 5885.  
 Paintings, Prints, Sculpture  
 Exhibitions: UPRI 31 May  
 Recent

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.



# The day police tried to evict five radicals

## Bomb burns down 60 homes

From Trevor Fishlock  
New York

The Mayor of Philadelphia yesterday defended the police bombing of a house where an armed radical group was holding out. The bomb started a fire which burnt down 60 other houses in the neighbourhood. There was angry reaction to the way the authorities handled what started as an attempt to evict troublesome people.

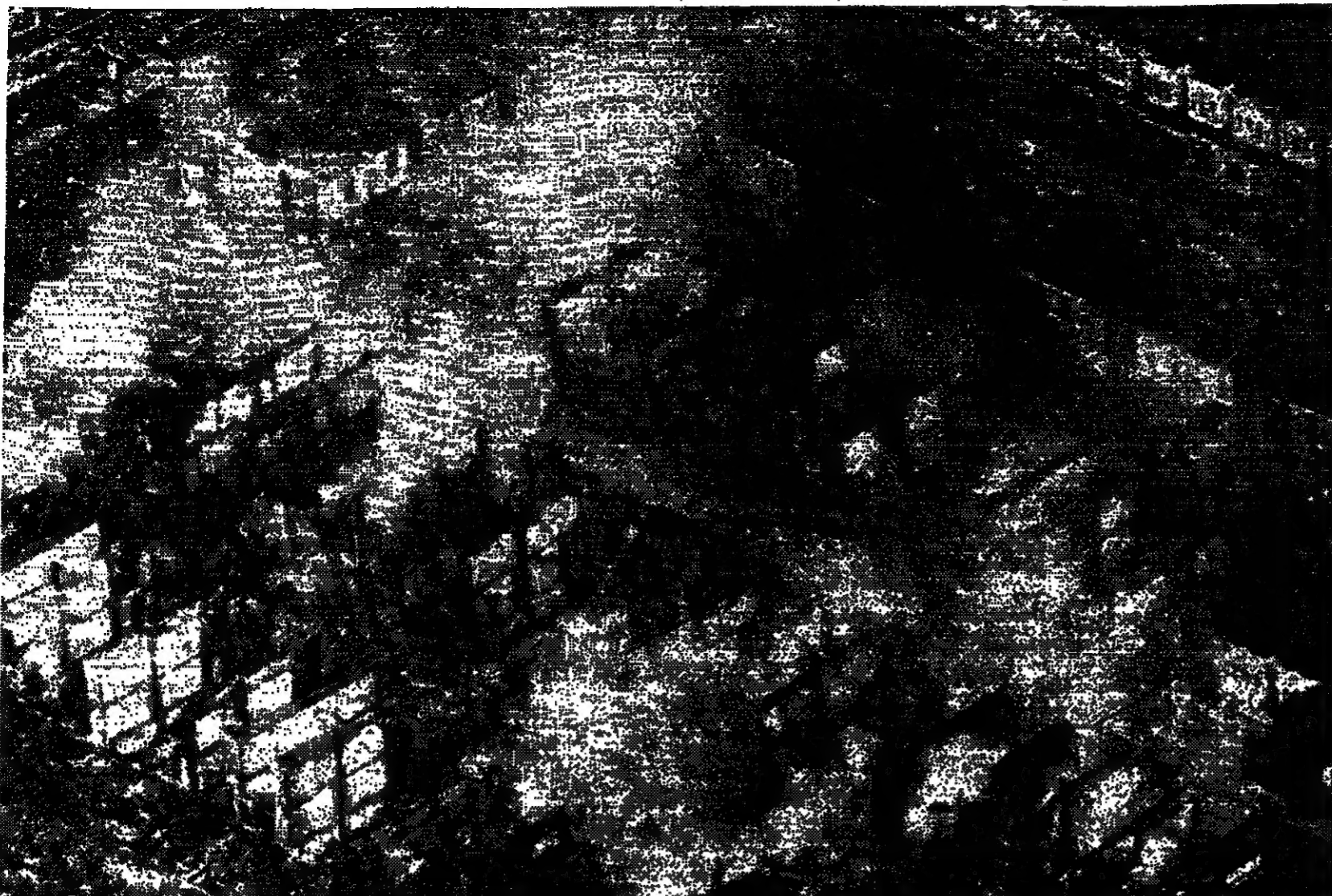
In the confusion of the fire three armed men apparently escaped from the house and are now being hunted. A woman from the house is under arrest and a boy aged nine is in hospital with burns.

The bombing and the fire ended a day-long siege in which 150 police exchanged gunfire with the group, who were armed with automatic weapons. To outraged people who protested at the severe measures used by the police, Mayor Wilson Goode said: "This was not child's play. This was war. When we made the decision to go in we knew it would be war. They intended to have an armed confrontation."

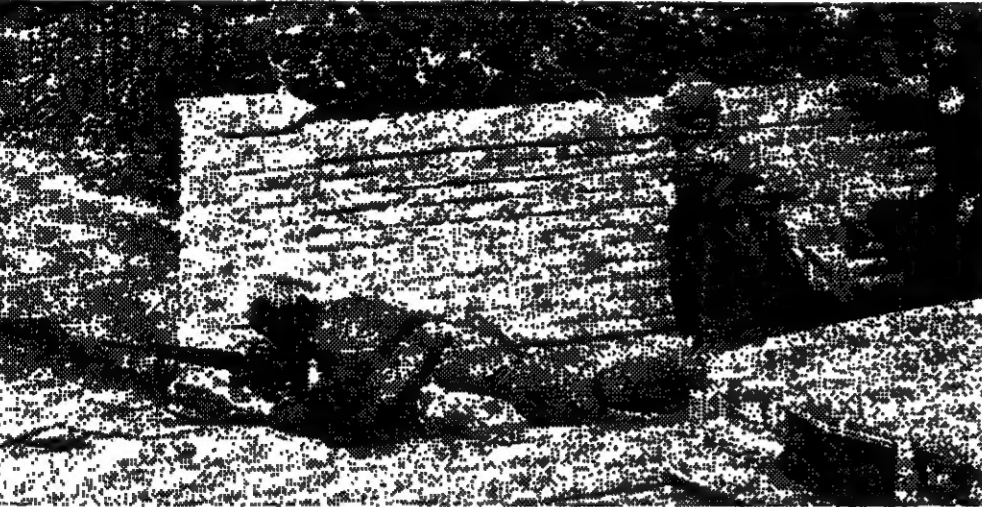
Mayor Goode said that the police had dropped a hand grenade from a helicopter with the intention of removing the fortification on top of the house. "We did not anticipate there would be a fire," he said. After touring the wrecked neighbourhood the mayor said he was "devastated and saddened" by the loss of houses. He promised that homes would be rebuilt in the same place. A city official added that the 60 homeless families could be rehoused in new homes, by Christmas.

Police at first tried tear gas to get the group, believed to be five adults and several children, out of the house. Scores of people in neighbouring houses were evacuated as the battle went on. Finally, the helicopter dropped the grenade onto the roof.

There was a furious reaction from some residents. "When you have children in a hell-hole you don't drop bombs. This is not Vietnam," said one. But others said the authorities were right. "We could not go on living like that".



Smoke hangs over the 60 houses destroyed by fire after the grenade was dropped.



Taking cover: Police shelter during the siege of the fortified house.

## Scientists given go-ahead to profit from inventions

New arrangements for exploiting discoveries in university research, allowing scientists to sell their ideas to industry, were disclosed yesterday by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education (Our Science Editor writes).

The new scheme hands the initiative for exploiting an invention to its discoverer, and to the university in which he or she works, by abolishing the right of first refusal which the state corporation, the British Technology Group, has had since 1950.

Additional aim is to encourage firms to seek out inventions which researchers

and universities do not feel they can market.

Under the scheme it is for a university or a researcher to negotiate commercial terms for an invention. Universities will retain royalties and any receipts without loss of government grants.

If there were circumstances where a foreign company, or subsidiary, was the best choice for exploiting a discovery, the Department of Trade and Industry would be consulted before an agreement was made.

There has been frequent criticism that British discoveries are all too often exploited by foreign industry.

## Letter from Port Stanley

## Meal that entered Falklands folklore

Fifteen Falkland Islanders rose early yesterday morning to accept an invitation to breakfast at the Upland Goose Hotel with their favourite *Bête noire*, Mr George Foulkes.

It was a perfectly civilized meal, unlikely to enter island folklore, as will a formal repeat attended by the Opposition spokesman on the South Atlantic two days before. Mr Foulkes, in the presence of Prince Andrew, was engaging in brisk debate with a sheep farmer's wife, when the lady bange her fist on the table to emphasize a point.

Within hours, the highly embroidered tale was abroad that the farmer's wife had broken a water jug over Mr Foulkes's head, and that the combatants had had to be physically separated by Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary.

Many islanders harbour secret desires to break water jugs over Mr Foulkes's head; he reminds them too much of the inevitability that Britain is unlikely to maintain an expensive defence of their island forever. But whereas, on his last visit two years ago they decorated his route from the airport with an exceptionally rude banner, now at least they will talk to him over the toast.

The previous evening, while Mr Foulkes was junketing with Sir Rex Hunt at one of the many parties to celebrate the opening of Mount Pleasant airport, his good name was being invoked at a patriotic public meeting in Port Stanley town hall.

"Why cannot Foulkes understand that there is no future for our way of life under Argentine sovereignty, even under leaseback?" asked a kelper from the body of the hall with a hint of despair.

Mr Ogden quickly told her that she could be no more British if she lived in the Isle of Wight.

At breakfast yesterday, Mr Foulkes was making a painstaking show of catching bullets in his teeth. He undertook to press the islanders' most urgent needs back in London: more civilian use of the new airport, a 200-mile fishing zone and speedier land reform.

His assurances that a future Labour Government would include the islanders at the negotiating table, did not do much ice. One or two of the more progressive councillors present ventured that, if diplomatic relations were restored, any proposals from Argentina should at least be looked at. But any suggestion of a transfer of sovereignty, total or partial, remains anathema.

"I can give the assurance of the Labour Party that the interests and wishes of the islanders would always be taken into account," said Mr Foulkes. "If there was the slightest question of the transfer of sovereignty, I would leave immediately," said Mr John Cheek, one of the most experienced and worldly wise of the island's councillors.

Mr Foulkes told the islanders it was important for them to realize that future governments could not keep present level of commitment to the Falklands ever.

They do not need Mr Foulkes to tell them that. Even Mr Ogden, who is adept at playing patriotism to the gallery, told Monday night's public meeting that, after a general election, unlikely to be more than two years distant, they could no longer be so certain of a majority of support in Westminster.

But the Falklanders are much less troubled than they were two years ago by such prophecies of doom. The evidence of commitment, and of some economic progress, is all around them in new concrete and steel. They feel more able to deal with Mr Foulkes without resort to water jugs.

Alan Hamilton

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend the annual dinner of the St Andrew's Society at Gray's Inn to mark their 25th anniversary, 8.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chairman of the National Federation of Housing Associations, chairs the fourth meeting of the inquiry, Buckingham Palace, 10.30, and hosts, as Patron and Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, lunches with executives of the M & G Group of Unit Trusts at Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3, 1, as Grand President of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, he chairs a BCCL

Commonwealth Council meeting, Buckingham Palace, 3. The Princess of Wales, Patron, London City Ballet, attends a reception given by London City Ballet, Skinner's Hall, 8 Dowgate Hill, EC4, 7.

The Princess Anne, Chancellor of the University of London, attends the 150th anniversary celebrations of the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, Mortimer St, W1, 3. The Duchess of Gloucester visits the headquarters of the Army Intelligence Corps, Temple Bar, Ashford, Kent, 11.

The Duke of Kent attends the Prime Minister's reception for Grand Export Day at No 10 Downing Street, 6.45. The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the International Social Services

of Great Britain, visits the Spring Fair at Kensington Town Hall, 11.15.

**New exhibitions**  
Pictures from the Galloway Hills by Vivian Manson; and art from Poland: Rozelle House, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends June 13).

Ceramics by Julia Carter-Freeman, John Dunn, Magdalene Odunbo and John Ward; Bluecoat Display Centre, Bluecoat Chambers, School Lane, Liverpool; Mon to Fri 10.30 to 5.30, Sat 10.30 to 2.30 (ends May 25).

**Exhibitions in progress**  
Picture Portraits and Newbiggin, photographs by Keith Hobbs; Woodhorn Church, Ashington; Northumberland; Tues to Sun 10 to 4 and closed Mon (ends May 23). Late carvings by Barbara Hepworth; Wakefield Art Gallery, Westwood Terrace, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; and Early Life: Barbara Hepworth; Elizabethan Exhibition Gallery, Brook St, Wakefield; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 12.30 and 1.30 to 5 (ends July 20).

Paintings and prints by Cedric Carleton; Art Gallery and Museum, Johns Place, Cambridge Rd, Hastings; Mon to Sat 10 to 1 and 2 to 5, Sun 3 to 5 (ends June 9).

**Music**  
Organ recital by Timothy Hone; Birmingham Town Hall, 1.00. Newcastle Spring Festival concert by the Fairfield String Quartet, Methodist Church Northbrook St, Newbury, 1.00; and a concert by the Academy of Ancient Music, St Nicholas Church, Newbury, 7.30.

Organ recital by Antony Edis; Southwell Minster, Notts, 7.30. Hale Burns Festival: tercentenary concert by Contrasts; All Saints' Church, Hale Barns, Cheshire, 8.00.

Schubert Festival: recital by Bernard Roberts and Yolande Wrigley (piano duo), 1.00, and a concert by the Lindsey String Quartet, 7.45; Crucible Studio, Sheffield.

Concert by the Dallas Symphony Orchestra; Guildhall, Portsmouth, 7.30.

Concert by the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra; Winter Gardens, Birmingham, 7.30. Broomeley Music Festival concert; Rochester Cathedral, 7.30.

**Talks, lectures**  
William Beilby and the art of glass, by Simon Cottle; Laing Art Gallery, Highgate Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, 12.30.

Cezanne, by Keith Hartley; National Gallery of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh, 1.00.

**General**  
Buxton Antiques Fair, Pavilion Gardens, Buxton, Derbyshire, 12.00 to 9.00 daily; last day 12.00 to 6.00 (ends May 18).

**Parliament today**  
Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on industry and new technologies.

Lords (2.30): Debates on trade union ballots and on the strategic defence initiative. Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, second reading.

**ENIGMA**  
The sum of the squares of each of the 6 unduplicated digits in the solution is only 133. One of the two duplicated digits in the solution is also in the Enigma number.

### New books - hardback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:  
Daguer, Peletois, Oil Sketches, Drawings, by Scott Adair (Thames & Hudson, £25).  
Man and the Moon Against Him, by Clara Houghworth (Corgi, £18).

The Cambridge Anthology, compiled by David Bordwell, Janet Staiger and Kristin Thompson (Routledge & Kegan Paul, £40).  
The Cornelia and the Lyander, by Finley J. Macdonald (Macdonald, £7.95).  
The Roman Emperors, a Biographical Guide to the Rulers of Imperial Rome 31BC-AD476, by Michael Grant (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.95).

The Theory and Practice of Human Rights, by D. J. MacIntyre (Temple Smith, £12.95).  
Women in English Society 1500-1800, edited by Mary Prior (Methuen, £14.95).  
Words, by John Sutherland (Macmillan, £17.50, paperback £8.95).  
Writing English, A User's Manual, by Nancy Harrison (Croom Helm, £14.95). PH

### Roads

Wales and west M5: Contrailow between junction 22 (B1181: Caerliff) and 299 (A30: Honiton).  
Devon: M5: Contrailow on south-bound carriageway between junctions 12 (Gloucester) and 14 (B4509: Thornbury); northbound exit at junction 13 closed, A346 Closed at Stonehouse, W of Amesbury, Wilts, diversions via A303 and A360.

The north M6: Lanes closed on both carriageways between junction 22 (M5) and 33 (A6: Lancaster South); access to Forton services maintained; care required. M63: Resurfacing between junction 7 and 9 Greater Manchester; slip roads at junction 8 (Sale) closed. A1: Contrailow system in operation at Seghill bridge on the A1 Tyne Tunnel northern approach road; roadworks.

South-east M74: Southbound carriageway closed due to construction between junction 2 and 1 (Larkhall to Lanark), Strathaven; contrailow on northbound, A86: Bridge replacement at Lagan Bridge, Inverness-shire, N of the A89 junction; single line traffic with temporary lights, (24 hours). A9: Resurfacing work in High St, Glasgow; Strathaven, single lane traffic with lights.

Information supplied by the AA.

### Anniversaries

Birlik, Count Klemens von Metternich, diplomat, Coblenz, Germany, 1773; Pierre Curie, physicist, Nobel Laureate 1903, Paris 1859.

Deaths: Edmund Kean, actor, London, 1833; Emily Dickinson, poet, Amherst, Massachusetts, 1886; Philip, Viscount Sowerby, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1924, 1929-31, 1937, Surrey, 1937.

**Portfolio**  
Portfolio - how to play  
Monday-Saturday record your daily Portfolio total.

If your total matches the published weekly dividend figure you have won outright or a share of the prize money stated for that week, and must claim your prize as instructed below.

**How to claim**  
Telephone The Times Portfolio claims line 0254-33272 between 10.00 am and 3.30 pm, on the day your overall total matches the published dividend figure. The claim can be accepted outside these hours.

You must have your card with you when you telephone.

If you are unable to telephone someone else can claim on your behalf but they must have your card and call The Times Portfolio claims line between the stipulated times.

No responsibility can be accepted for failure to contact the claims office for any reason within the stated hours.

The winning figures are applicable to both daily and weekly dividend claims.

Some Times Portfolio cards include minor errors in the instructions on the reverse side. These cards are not included.

The winning of Rules 2 and 3 has been suspended from earlier winners for clarification purposes. The game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

### Ferry disruption

Holidaymakers and lorry drivers faced long delays yesterday as severe fog disrupted the ferry service. Members of the National Union of Seamen halted the 4pm ferry to Zeebrugge, Belgium and the return boat an hour later in protest at the closure of HM Coastguard's search and rescue service at Greenwich. Cross channel sailings from Dover were also hit.

A spokesman for European Ferries said: "This has caused a lot of inconvenience but we hope to return to normal with overnight sailings from Felixstowe to Zeebrugge."

### The pound

|                | Bank   | Gold   |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| Australia \$   | 1.78   | 1.78   |
| Canada \$      | 0.80   | 0.80   |
| Denmark kr     | 1.37   | 1.37   |
| France F       | 6.55   | 6.55   |
| Germany M      | 2.36   | 2.36   |
| Italy L        | 1.36   | 1.36   |
| Japan Y        | 163.60 | 163.60 |
| Netherlands G  | 2.20   | 2.20   |
| Portugal Esc   | 200.48 | 200.48 |
| Spain P        | 166.37 | 166.37 |
| Sweden Kr      | 4.66   | 4.66   |
| Switzerland S  | 2.00   | 2.00   |
| USA \$         | 1.53   | 1.53   |
| Yugoslavia Din | 13.66  | 13.66  |

Notes for small denomination bank notes are accepted by Barclays Bank PLC. Offences apply to travellers' cheques and foreign currency business.

The winning of Rules 2 and 3 has been suspended from earlier winners for clarification purposes. The game itself is not affected and will continue to be played in exactly the same way as before.

London: The FT index closed down 4.8 at 1012.5.

## Weather forecast

A depression over S Scotland will move slowly NE.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW England, East Angles, E Midlands, Channel Islands: Scattered showers, sunny intervals; wind variable, mainly SW, light or moderate; max temp 16C (61F).  
E, central W England, W Midlands, S Wales: A little rain in places at first, sun at times; wind NE, moderate or strong; max temp 15C (59F).  
N Wales, NW, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, SW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Cloudy with rain, some heavy, and hill fog, becoming showery later with bright intervals; developing wind SW, moderate or strong; max temp 15C (59F).

Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argy, NW Scotland: Rain, heavy and thundery, becoming intermittent later, hill fog; wind variable light or moderate; max temp 13C (55F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry at first, rain soon spreading from S, heavy at times; wind NE, moderate or strong; max temp 10C (50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Showers and sunny intervals; becoming warmer.

**SEA PASSAGES:** S North Sea: Wind S, rain; moderate to strong; visibility moderate with fog patches; sea moderate to rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel E, Wind S moderate; mainly fair; visibility moderate with fog patches; sea smooth or slight. St George's Channel: Wind variable; light rain at first; visibility moderate with fog patches; sea smooth, light S. Wind mainly S fresh; occasional rain; visibility moderate with fog patches; sea moderate.

**Lighting-up time**  
London 5.15 pm to 4.35 am  
Edinburgh 5.45 pm to 4.55 am  
Glasgow 5.45 pm to 4.55 am  
Belfast 5.45 pm to 4.55 am

**Yesterday**  
Rain: 0.15 in. Sun: 1.01 in. Cloud: 1.01 in. Rain: 0.15 in. Sun: 1.01 in. Cloud: 1.01 in.

**London**  
Yesterday: Temp: max 11 to 12; min 7 to 8; rain 1.01 in. Rain: 0.15 in. Sun: 1.01 in. Cloud: 1.01 in.

**Highest and lowest**  
Yesterday: Highest day temp: 17C (63F); lowest day temp: 7C (45F); highest night temp: 11C (52F); lowest night temp: 7C (45F).

**Abroad**  
Paris: 15.5 to 18.5; London: 11.5 to 14.5; New York: 15.5 to 18.5; Tokyo: 15.5 to 18.5.

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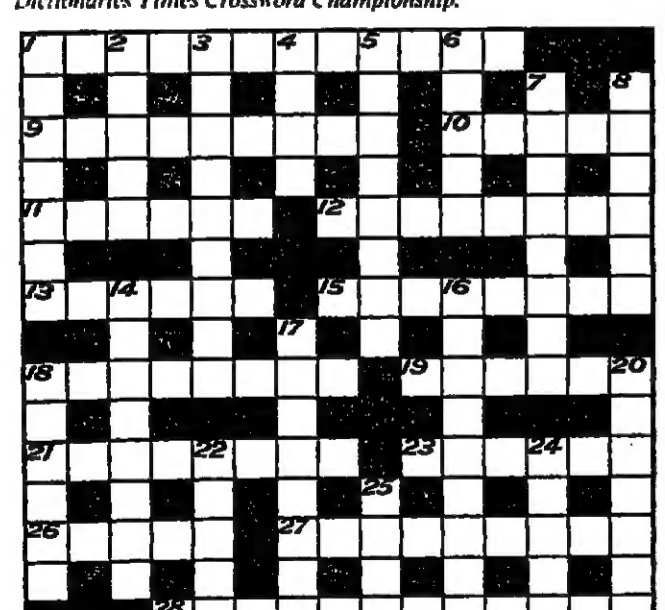
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Paris: 15.5 to 18.5; London: 11.5 to 14.5; New York: 15.5 to 18.5; Tokyo: 15.5 to 18.5.

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## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,737

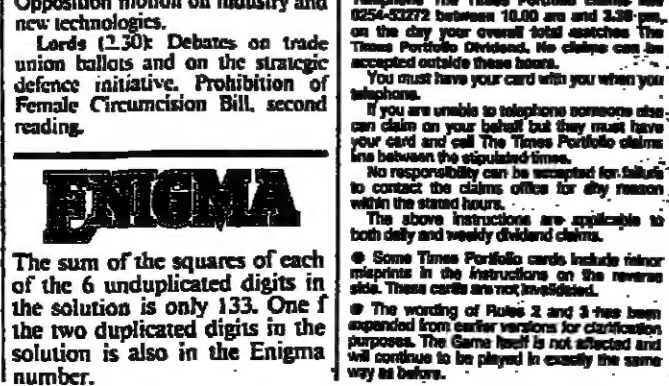
This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 33 per cent of the competitors at this year's Glasgow regional final of the Collins Dictionary's Times Crossword Championship.



- ACROSS**
- 1 Power disposed to accept large bill? How absurd (12).
  - 2 Complaints investigator gives order to Flanagan's valet (9).
  - 3 Unjustified excitement at the tea-table? (5).
  - 4 Some traveller ran there seeking adventure (6).
  - 5 Kitchen revolutionaries? (8).
  - 6 Bicycling in Yorkshire once (6).
  - 7 Cessation of work means reduction in pay (8).
  - 8 Bishop once said to be turbulent (8).
  - 9 It's very cold for Noah's bloodsucker, I hear (6).
  - 10 A source of humiliation, though not for Mother Hubbard? (8).
  - 11 Bandyman responsible for the takings? (6).
  - 12 It's patent that a harmonic lacks one (5).
  - 13 Odd way to go from one movement to another (9).
  - 14 Means of informing crowd about duration of tenure (5,7).

- DOWN**
- 1 Mole takes in ace path-finder (7).
  - 2 The day of the goose? (5).
  - 3 Constrained (but not stumped) to change decree (9).
  - 4 Occasion for the landlord to call (4).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12



**ENIGMA**  
The sum of the squares of each of the 6 unduplicated digits in the solution is only 133. One of the two duplicated digits in the solution is also in the Enigma number.

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